

Monday July 1 1996

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Media
The press bias against women

62 pages 7/9

Blair facing rebels' wrath

Appeal for loyalty as manifesto starts to take shape

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR, facing one of the most serious tests of his Labour leadership, will this week appeal to his growing band of backbench critics to unite behind the party's policy blueprint for general election victory.

In the face of fresh warnings not to press ahead with further centralisation of power, the party will today set out plans to take 100,000 patients off NHS waiting lists under a policy blueprint designed to "cut the waste and the waiting".

It is one of five key policy areas to be outlined this week in a 10,000 word manifesto, a statement of New Labour's programme — "The Road to the Manifesto".

But a separate proposal under consideration is bound to give ammunition to those who argue Mr Blair has too tight a grip on the party; the suggestion that all candidates should come from a centrally approved panel and MPs should be subjected to a loyalty test.

More controversy is certain to be caused by the suggestion that all candidates should come from a centrally approved panel and that sitting MPs should be subjected to some sort of review to assess their competence and loyalty.

Senior Labour sources said that it was just an idea which was at an early stage and would not apply to the next parliament. But one MP who has been criticised by loyalists as a potential dissident, the veteran ex-minister and anti-European Denis Davis, said last night: "There is great concern at the moment among constituency parties that they are losing any influence they have had. The leadership would be unwise to press ahead with this."

Mr Blair's attempts to persuade his divided party to back a referendum on Scottish devolution attracted fresh criticism from another side of the party yesterday.

Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow, condemned Mr Blair's plans to conduct a referendum on a devolution white paper as "ructions". A plebiscite would "prove nothing" and risked subverting parliamentary democracy. He confirmed he would resume his bitter 20-year-old campaign against Labour's plans.

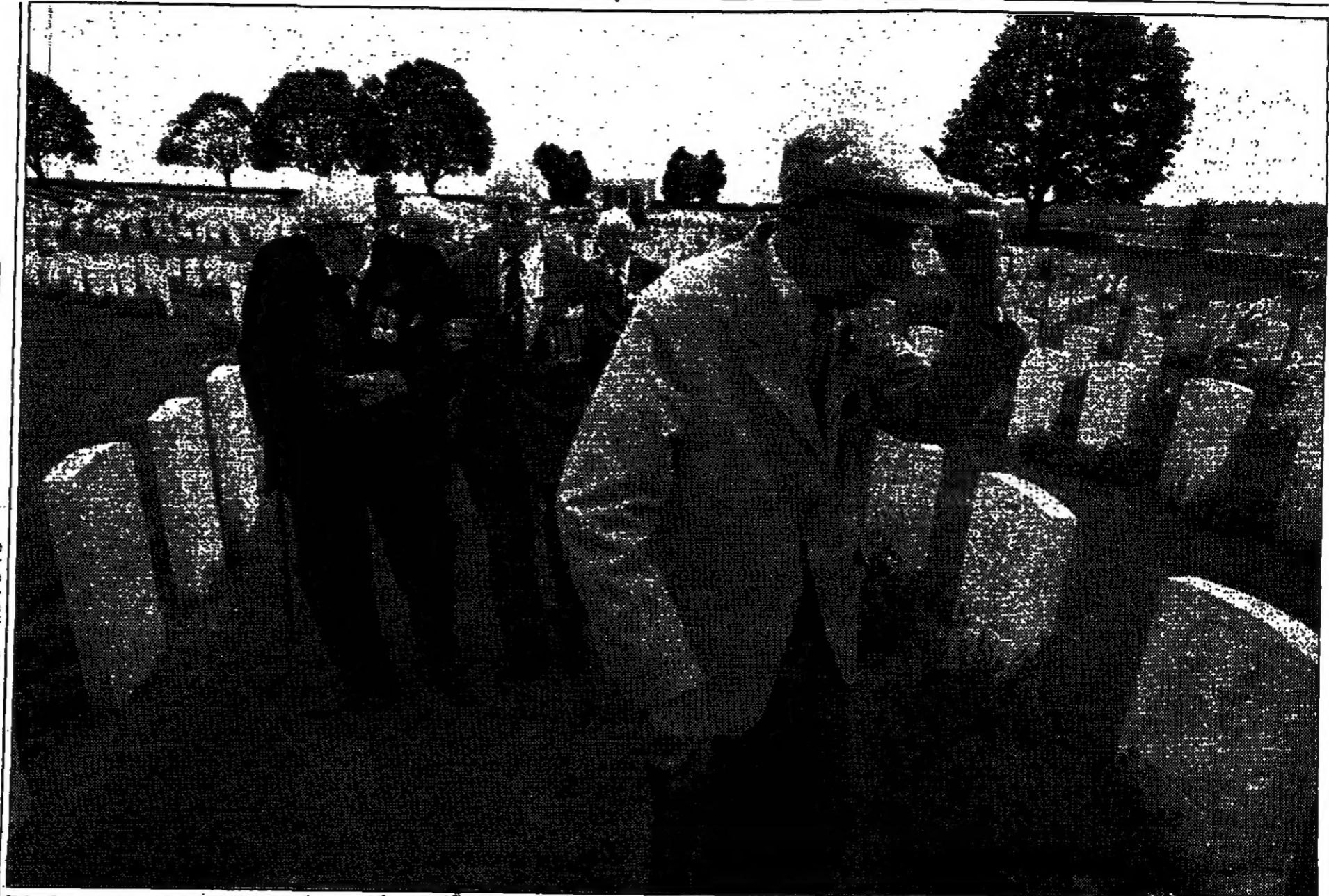
Today's health document will spell out how a Labour government would switch money from wasteful bureaucracy to front-line patient care.

Amid continued criticism for failing to commit itself to more cash for the NHS, Labour will show that the first step towards slashing the annual £1.5 billion "red tape" bill will realise £100 million from NHS funds, which will pay for 100,000 operations, or take 100,000 people off the waiting lists.

Labour will set a tough new ceiling on management costs in every hospital and health authority to achieve the cuts. Areas that have been targeted for removal are the annual contracting round, which generates hundreds of thousands of invoices and which costs an average hospital £57,000 each year.

The Road to the Manifesto will be accompanied by a marketing programme, backed by roadshows and party meetings to sell the programme to the party's 370,000 members. They will be asked to endorse it in a ballot in October, after the annual party conference.

Yesterday, shadow social security secretary Chris Smith made it clear that Labour will follow the "golden rule of public spending" — that revenue must cover consumption. Labour ministers will be required to show where they can save before they spend.



Friends remembered... Samuel Hilton, 97, of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, with other veterans at Cabaret Rouge cemetery, near Arras, yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

'We were too young to ask any questions'

Today is the 80th anniversary of the first shots of the Battle of the Somme. Alex Duval Smith in Arras meets old soldiers whose memories remain vivid

FOR the first time Michael Lally, aged 101, saw his brother's grave yesterday. It was just a white headstone, like hundreds around it, and it was inscribed "J. Lally, aged 32". But it could just as easily have borne his own name.

For Mr Lally and those who travelled with him yesterday — four of them more than 100 years old — the neat cemeteries of the Somme valley evoke memories of blood and mud. These men do not speak of their "finest hour" nor of the "Great War" but tend towards the view that they were lions led by donkeys.

Samuel Hilton is proud that his regiment was called the Loyal North Lancashire. But he does not hesitate to damn the officers who sent him walking there was an order not to run — towards German machine guns. These men were cavalry officers left over from India. They were not much good at infantry warfare.

all Mr Lally could think to say was: "Seeing that grave was worth all the millions in England. My mother knew where the grave was, but she died in 1939 and no one in the family has seen it since."

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Donald Hodge, the 101-year-old president of the association, comes back regularly to the Somme battlefields on a dutiful pilgrimage. "I do it for them, for all my friends. It is an obligation; they are here instead of me." He volunteered in 1915 and served in the 7th Battalion of the Queen's Own West Kent.

Tom Brennan, aged 98, is the last surviving Liverpool pal recruited under the policy of pale battalions — men from the same towns and villages serving in the same units. "It was terrible to survive," he said. Mr Brennan, who alongside his Victory Medal wears an Imperial Service Medal for 50 years' exemplary service to the Post Office, talks of his two wars between 1914 and 1918. "The first war ended at Christmas 1916 when I got trench foot. The first was the worst. There were no gas masks and anyone who got shellshock was charged with desertion in the face of the enemy and executed. Haig signed every one of those orders."

"I could have got out of the second war, but after a very pleasant convalescence at Lady Astor's, I was sent to Winchester where a certain Lieutenant Barrett was under orders to make our lives so miserable that we would want to return to the front. So I did."

For many, like 97-year-old Mr Hilton, joining up was "just something you did because you were too young to ask any questions". The same went for going over the top. "You just did it and learned to look straight ahead, not

either side, in case someone you know had been hit."

Robbie Burns, aged 100, said: "It is impossible to say what that kind of experience does to you. It is better not to ask."

Steve Goodwin, one of half a dozen volunteers — all of them under 40 — accompanying the group, said: "As a nation we are fascinated by the fixtures and fittings of war, but we do not care about the people who are actually there. It is fine turning up for one hour on November 11, but it is not enough."

Downing Street and the Ministry of Defence last night rejected as unjust criticisms by Margaret Thatcher and Tory MPs that they would not be represented at the ceremony. Both insisted that invitations were never received.

I.Q. of 145 and Can't Remember?

A FAMOUS international publisher reports that there is a simple technique for acquiring a powerful memory which can pay you real dividends in both business and social advancement. It works like magic to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater popularity.

The details of this method are described in his fascinating booklet, "Adventures in Memory", sent free on request.

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Forget facts, figures?

dent in everything you say and do. These are only a few of the ways in which you will benefit by possessing a trained memory.

Germany's golden goal seals European championship win

AFTER 31 matches, 61 goals, 3,035 minutes of football and one missed Gareth Southgate penalty, England's Euro 96 team were made to taste even more bitter as Germany overcame the underdog Czech Republic 2-1 in extra time in the tournament final yesterday. It could have been us as an inevitable thought.

The Germans had waited long enough for revenge. Czechoslovakia, as it was then, beat West Germany in the 1978 final, the first time penalties were used to settle an international competition. Vengeance was sweeter as Oliver Bierhoff's 95th minute strike was the first time the so-called golden goal, when play immediately stops, had settled a contest.

In their second successive Euro final, the Germans did what they were unable to do in 1982 and overcame an underdog to lift the Henri Delaunay trophy. At least no one had to face the torture of penalties. It all looked very different

when the long-haired Karel Poborski, for whom Liverpool are prepared to pay £5 million, charged through the German defence in the 88th minute and was upended by Matthias Sammer for a penalty.

Patrik Berger hit it hard, low and straight, but it sneaked under the diving goalkeeper's body. The Germans came back just when they looked like falling apart, Bierhoff equalising with a header three minutes after coming on as a substitute.

The English were very much on the side of the Czechs, vocally bolstering the tiny pocket of 5,000 eastern Europeans by their limitless desire to see Germany lose to someone, anyone, at anything.

A happy tournament ended on a trouble-free note. Police were delighted by an orderly crowd and a remarkably low record of eight pre-match arrests. Small gangs of English hooligans tried to scour central London for trouble, according to intelligence officers, but found the police ready in force.

March reports, page 2

Britain	World News	Finance	Sport
3	2	11	13

Comment and Letters 8
Obituaries 10, Crossword 18
G2
Weather 16
Radio 16, TV 16



Last time with feeling for the hall from hell

There were few dry eyes as the Hallé Orchestra gave its final performance yesterday at Manchester's Free Trade Hall - its home for the last 138 years.

Monday sketch



David Ward

WITH three overtures the Hallé Orchestra yesterday stepped into the Free Trade Hall, a Victorian version of a Florentine palace which has been its Manchester home for 138 years, and perhaps the only concert hall in the world to have been named after a political and economic philosophy. The overtures may have been just a sentimental piece of concert planning - the last of the three, from Wagner's *Meistersingers*, has been in the orchestra's repertoire since 1976 when the Manchester Guardian said its dissonance was unbearable. Or they may have been a symbolic recognition of a new beginning - the band plays its first concert in the £42 million Bridgewater Hall round

the corner on September 11. The old hall, in which Christabel Pankhurst is alleged to have lost her skirt the night the suffragettes first unfurled their votes for women banner, will become a hotel. Tom Ainsworth, a Hallé regular all his life, sucked his interval Cornetto and admitted he was crying even as the conductor, Kent Nagano, launched the orchestra and its choir into *God Save The Queen* (all three verses, including the bit about knavish tricks and confounding their politics). "I couldn't help it. Perhaps it's because I'm old. I first came here 60 years ago with my school and that got me hooked. I've been coming every year except during the war." Standing with him, Win Pitt said the Free Trade Hall was part of the heart of Manchester. "This is a very highly charged emotional experience for me. I've been coming for years and I always feel at home here - in spite of the long queues for the ladies. There is always a special atmosphere here, a sense that people really enjoy coming." At the end of a programme remembering favourite Hallé conductors and composers - Elgar, Delius, Sibelius, Shostakovich - members of the audience responded to orchestra, choir and the dashing Mr Nagano (whose immaculate shoulder-length hair swings in harmony with his baton) by staggering ragedly to their feet in a shambling kind of standing ovation. Most of them had white hair, sensible shoes and long memories. For younger patrons, the move to the Bridgewater probably cannot come quickly enough. The old hall, rebuilt in 1961 behind the original 1858 Renaissance facade after an efficient bombing raid in 1940, is drab, unwelcoming and uncomfortable. Poorer concert-goers were rewarded with lousy sight-lines and seats (miserable municipal brown) without arms. If they could see, they couldn't hear; if they could hear, they couldn't see. To arrive early for a concert was to invite a depression which the greatest orchestral masterpieces had to fight hard to lift. To sit in the front rows of the stalls before the high platform was to secure an excellent view of the city council's pot plants and the conductor's bottom but little else. To sit in the side galleries was to miss a view of that half of the orchestra which was doing the interesting bit. Martin Milner, who led the Hallé for 29 years, confessed that he was always afraid of falling off his perch on the edge of the vertiginous platform.



Orchestra members tune up in the cramped dressing rooms at the Free Trade Hall.

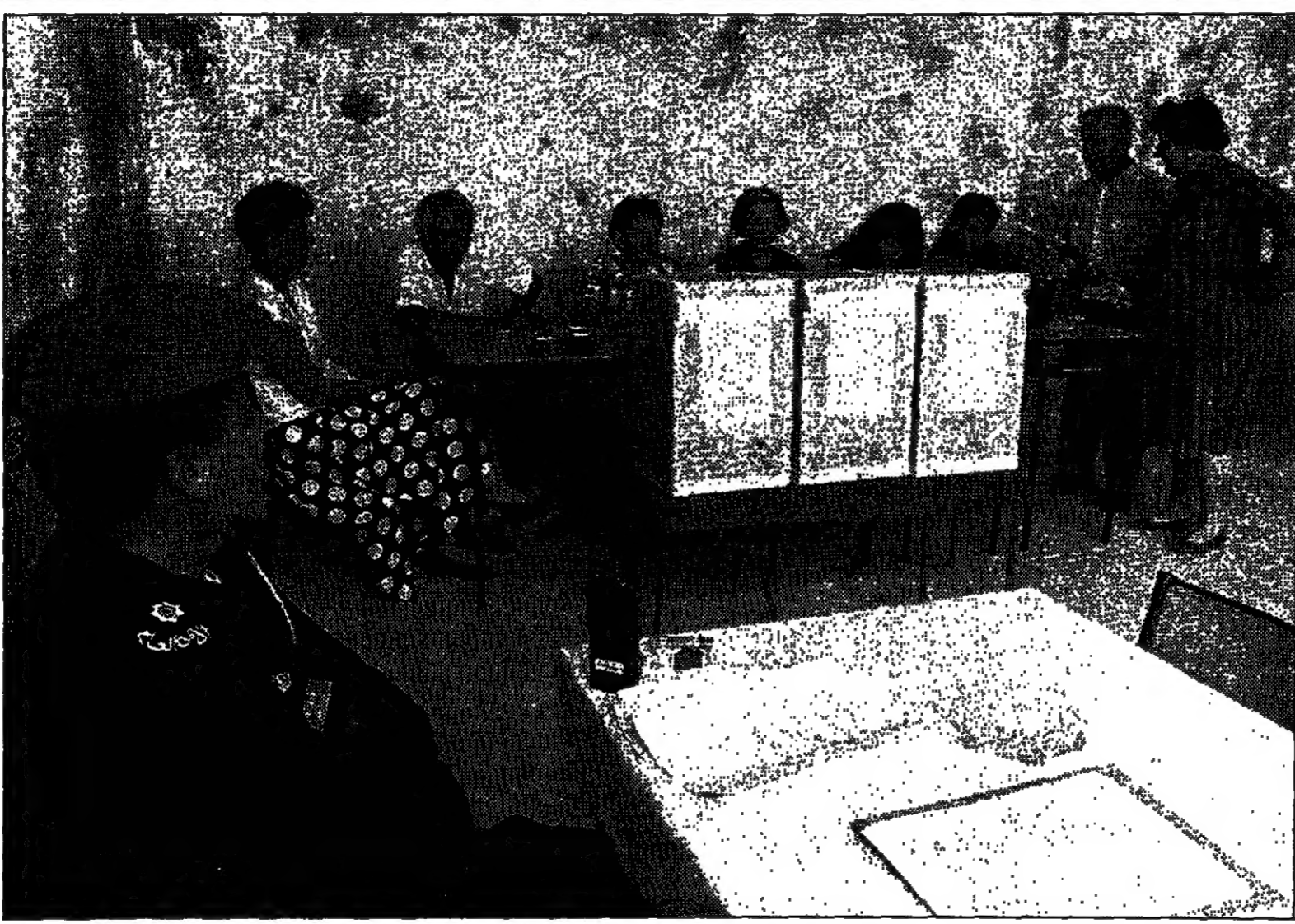
PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER THOMSON

"Frankly I'm glad they are getting something better. It wasn't the best place to play in. The wind players were too close to the strings and the times were too high. The predominant sound was wind. Hard the strings played, they couldn't match them in volume of sound." But some of the Hallé's older players had predicted that they would be looking at their crotches through tears. "It's a nostalgic day," admitted Peter Worrell, with 34 years service in the second violin. "The Hallé has always been very close to its audience - Sir John Barbirolli described it as a great orchestra and a great public walking hand in hand. Now we are going into something new but I hope we will retain our traditions." He looked back to a performance of Fauré's *Requiem* conducted by Nadia Boulanger in 1963 and an unforgettable Mahler Two directed by Barbirolli who served the Hallé from 1943 until his death in 1970. The farewell concert, introduced by Michael Kennedy, music critic and Hallé biographer, included a chorus from Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, which was played in the Free Trade Hall as a memorial to Barbirolli. "That was a very

emotional occasion," remembered Mr Worrell. "James Baker broke down when she got to the words 'Farewell, brother dear'. So did most of the orchestra and audience." The Free Trade hall closes for good on July 19 with a meeting at which the Dalai Lama will talk on Compassion - The Basis For Human Happiness. As well as music, its walls have always echoed to the sound of speechifying and argument. The first hall was a wooden building erected on the site of the Peterloo Massacre in 11 days in 1840 and was the headquarters of the campaign to repeal Parliament's protectionist Corn Laws (repealed in 1846) and promote free trade. The first permanent hall opened in 1843, and was replaced by a grander structure in 1855. Yesterday's concert didn't end with the Wagner overture. The Hallé played as an encore the Elgar Pomp and Circumstance piece that marches into Land of Hope and Glory. The standing ovation ceased to be shambling, two enthusiastic ladies waved their umbrellas and everyone sang like mad. *A Hallé For All Seasons, a history of the Free Trade Hall, by Terry Witek, has just been published by the Charles Hallé Foundation, price £9.95.*

'The Republika Srpska president is still Dr Radovan Karadzic and I am the vice-president. [His] replacement is envisaged only in free elections and in no other way'

- Biljana Plavsica, a Karadzic loyalist and hardliner



Citizens of the ethnically-divided Bosnian city of Mostar vote yesterday under the eye of a UN policeman

PHOTOGRAPH: JOCKEL FINCK

Karadzic 'resignation' fails to impress

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

THE Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, has formally handed over his job to a deputy. It was announced yesterday. But there was no sign that he had given up real power, and diplomats feared that his "resignation" was a ploy to fend off sanctions. The international community's high representative in Bosnia, Carl Bildt, risked his credibility by appearing to take Mr Karadzic at his word and suspending the threat of an embargo on the Bosnian Serbs. "As of today, Mr Karadzic

cannot exercise any public functions or public powers as president of Republika Srpska [the Serb-held half of Bosnia]," Mr Bildt said in a statement yesterday. A spokesman said Mr Bildt would renew the threat of sanctions and "keep sharp" if it became clear this week that Mr Karadzic was still wielding power. The Bosnian Serb leader announced he was handing power to Biljana Plavsic, known as a Karadzic loyalist and a hardliner, in a letter to Mr Bildt. But its value was immediately called into question by Mrs Plavsic.

"The Republika Srpska president is still Dr Radovan Karadzic and I am the vice-president. [His] replacement is envisaged only in free elections and in no other way," she told reporters yesterday. In the letter, Mr Karadzic referred only to his "temporary inability" to fulfil his functions. He remains head of the Serb Democratic Party (SDS), which dominates Bosnian Serb politics. Most of the group of seven industrial powers reacted cautiously. A White House spokesman, David Johnson, told reporters: "We don't know what [Mr Karadzic's] status is... Our policy on

him remains what we have said in the past that he needs to be not only out of power but... out of influence, out of town and in the dock." Mr Karadzic's letter was delivered to Mr Bildt's office last Wednesday, but Mr Bildt withheld its publication until yesterday to give the Bosnian Serb leadership the opportunity to announce the resignation itself. Instead, Mr Karadzic was acclaimed at an SDS rally at the weekend in his stronghold, Pale. A diplomat in Sarajevo said the real reason for the delayed release was to give the impression that it was the direct result of the G7's threat

to reimpose sanctions. He said Western capitals had put intense pressure on Mr Bildt to accept the "resignation" as genuine. Most observers in Sarajevo were scornful of the letter. "Constitutionally, it's what you'd hand in as president when you go on your summer holidays," a Nato official said. In recent weeks Mr Karadzic's removal has become a priority for Western diplomacy in the Balkans, and it was one of the dominant issues at the Lyon summit. His insistence on partitioning Bosnia on ethnic lines and the heavy-handed repression of his regime threaten to

turn September's internationally-sponsored elections into a fiasco and prolong Nato's entanglement in the region. The international community could at least claim a success yesterday in Mostar, where elections aimed at reunifying the partitioned city passed off peacefully. The European Union administration, backed by 2,500 Nato troops, bused thousands of voters across the boundaries which have divided Croat and Muslim communities since fighting reduced much of the city to ruins in 1993. His insistence on partitioning Bosnia on ethnic lines and the heavy-handed repression of his regime threaten to

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

GOVERNMENT hopes of killing off the backbench rebellion over plans to sell off armed forces married quarters were dashed yesterday as the row was rekindled by fresh threats of cuts to the defence budget and as a former defence minister accused the rebels of "Portillo bashing". Last week 65 backbenchers, whose main organisers are strong supporters of John Redwood, a former leadership contender and the rightwing rival within the Conservative Party of Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, backed a Commons motion condemning the £1.6 billion sell-off. Yesterday Jonathan Aitken added his voice to the pressure on the rebels, and irritated them by suggesting their campaign did have a serious motive. "There is a sort of slight game of Portillo bashing in some quarters," he told BBC Radio 4. "Some people may be playing that game and I would regret that if it was true."

The defence procurement minister, James Arbuthnot, insisted that the sale of the 60,000 homes would not be used directly to finance tax cuts - an argument which has been used privately by ministers to justify the move in an attempt to pacify the rebels. But he stoked up the controversy by undermining the Prime Minister's pledge last week that personnel would not be forced to move against their will, claiming that people would be offered "a comparable property". Amid claims that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is seeking cuts of up to £400 million in the defence budget, Mr Arbuthnot refused to deny that the Ministry of Defence was vulnerable. "Every year the Treasury, as a natural process, tries to make sure that public spending is kept to a responsible and respectable level and this year will be no exception," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*. The Cabinet will meet on Thursday to discuss next year's spending targets, kicking off the fierce departmental negotiations which precede the Budget. The original purpose of the married quarters sale was to find an estimated £500 million to help towards defence cuts demanded by the Treasury. The sale price has now risen to about £1.5 billion, and if the money now to disappear, the ministry budget - already under pressure along with those of other departments - would face a serious crisis, especially on the equipment side. The shadow defence secretary, David Clark, said that Britain's defences would be placed "in dire peril" by the Government's planned "savagely" cuts in military spending. Labour is planning to force a Commons vote in the next couple of weeks, and is confident that with the help of the rebels it will defeat the Government.

Leader comment, page 8

Tuesday June 25: First signs of a serious rebellion, as it emerged that 65 Tories had signed a Commons motion calling on the Government to consult service families before any sales of the 60,000 homes. The signatories included 10 former ministers and four executive members of the influential 1922 Committee of Tory backbenchers. At Question Time, John Major said that a delay to the sale could threaten defence orders, and sought to reassure the rebels by pledging that no service personnel would be forced to move. **Wednesday June 26:** Meet-

ings between the Defence Secretary and groups of rebels - in which he warned them that tax cuts would be jeopardised if the sell-off did not go ahead - led to 24 senior Tories removing their names from the motion. **Thursday June 27:** The Tory MP, Julian Fraser, leader of the rebels, insisted he would press ahead with the campaign to slow the sale down, on the back of favourable legal advice. **Sunday June 30:** The defence procurement minister, James Arbuthnot, refused to deny reports that the Treasury was demanding defence cuts of up to £400 million, and appeared to contradict the Prime Minister by claiming that service personnel would be moved to a comparable property.

How the battle lines were drawn on plan to sell off service homes

WARNING signs that Michael Portillo might have a battle on his hands over plans to sell off married quarters came early last week.

ings between the Defence Secretary and groups of rebels - in which he warned them that tax cuts would be jeopardised if the sell-off did not go ahead - led to 24 senior Tories removing their names from the motion.

The master of easy listening avoids the schmaltz and shows how it should be done

Review

Adam Sweeting

Burt Bacharach Royal Festival Hall

THE Mike Flowers Pops version of the Oasis hit, Wonderwall, has epitomised

the "easy listening" boom in British pop music, but it took the master himself to set foot on the Festival Hall stage to show how it should be done. Accompanied by the BBC Concert Orchestra, four female singers and a hand-picked rhythm section, Burt Bacharach stepped nimbly through 30-odd years of his own indelible hits, from Do You Know The Way To San

Jose? to Arthur's Theme and Heartlight. Incredibly but true, he was 68 last month, although deluxe California living has left Burt slim, tanned, and glowing with health club vitality. He was already 30 by the time he scored his first hit with his songwriting partner, Hal David, when the country singer, Marty Robbins, breached the American Top 20

with The Story Of My Life. Bacharach has been keeping pop statisticians squinting in ecstasy ever since. Justifiably, perhaps, Burt was keen to nudge our memories about how many classics he has written. He described how the agony of having Walk On By beaten to the Academy Award by Talk To The Animals was balanced by the ecstasy of winning with Rain-

drops Keep Falling On My Head. It's a fine line between schmaltz and class, but Burt's fastidious approach to his arrangements mostly kept him safe. Highlights were a swagging What's New Pussycat?, just a tiny amount of Close To You, a gust of Anyone Who Had A Heart, and a neatly understated Raindrops. On hand to pay homage

were the Oasis brothers, Noel and Liam Gallagher. As Burt's performance whirred smoothly to a climax, Noel was whisked on stage to sing This Guy's In Love With You. The boy done fantastic - he remembered the words and sang in tune, though whether Oasis's rebel-rock credentials can survive this filiation with Burt's airbrushed dream-world remains to be seen.

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July 1st 1996

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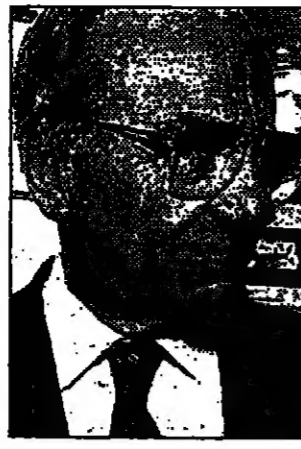
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Warren Buffett... second richest at \$15.3 billion



Silvio Berlusconi... media fortune of \$6 billion



Rupert Murdoch... fortune totals \$3 billion



David Sainsbury... tills ring at \$4.1 billion



Sir James Goldsmith... billionaire financier



Paul Getty II... family assets valued at \$4 billion

Asian tiger tycoons stake their place on billionaire's row

Mark Tran surveys the richest people and finds old money-spinners like property at work in new economies

BILLIONAIRES from the tiger economies of the Far East are gaining on Bill Gates, chairman of software giant Microsoft, and Warren Buffett, America's super investor, as the world's richest individuals.

While Mr Gates and Mr Buffett are still leading it over the world's dollar billionaires for the second year running in Forbes magazine's tenth annual ranking of individuals and their families, published last night, many predicted to see five of the world's 10 wealthiest individuals come from Asia.

This reflects Asia's growing economic clout. While America is still home to a third of the world's biggest fortunes with 149 billionaires, Asia is rapidly catching up.

Although the number of Japanese billionaires remains unchanged at 41 in 1996 from 1991, elsewhere in Asia, the number has surged from 26 to 82 in five years.

So Asia, largely economically underdeveloped at the end of world war two, now boasts 82 per cent of the world's great fortunes. And the number of billionaires is also rising rapidly, with 447 named by Forbes this year compared with 288 in 1995.

Much of the big new money made in Asia comes from businesses such as property development, energy and natural resources - exactly the same sectors where big money was made in the US decades ago.

In the US, where the number of billion-dollar fortunes climbed by 20 to 149 in the past year, the new billions were fuelled by the continuing boom on Wall Street, coupled with the computer revolution. In Mr Gates' case, his

The elite

Number of billionaires

US	149
Japan	41
UK	12
France	11
Germany	10
Italy	10
Spain	10
Sweden	10
Switzerland	10
Other	10

and Tan Yu, another property man from the Philippines (\$7 billion).

Rounding off this group are Paul Allen, the co-founder of Microsoft and Canadian media tycoon Kenneth Thomson.

Among the crop of new billionaires from Asia is Nina Wang, Asia's richest woman with an estimated worth of \$3.3 billion. She took charge of Chinachem Group, Hong Kong's largest privately-held property developer after her husband, Teh Hual, was kidnapped, for the second time, in 1990.

She handed over more than half the reported \$60 million demanded by her husband's captors, but he never reappeared. She has no qualms about Hong Kong's handover to China next year and plans to build Nium Tower. At 1,584 feet, it is expected to be the world's tallest building at a cost of \$1.3 billion.

The growing number of Asian billionaires, particularly in South-east Asia, is part and parcel of the Asian miracle. From 1990 to 1995, South-east Asia's share of world economic output increased from 17 per cent to 25 per cent. The region's chunk of foreign exchange holdings has jumped from 10 per cent to over 50 per cent during the same period.

With national savings rates ranging from 30 to 45 per cent, South-east Asia is already generating nearly as much new savings each year as the US and Europe combined.

Britain has six billion-dollar fortunes, well down the pecking order, behind Saudi Arabia, Taiwan and the Philippines, with the Sainsbury family topping the list at \$4.1 billion.

The Getty family, always associated with enormous wealth, is a long way down the list with \$4 billion - though way ahead of Britain's poorest billionaire, Richard Branson, who has only \$1.4 billion.



Bill Gates... world's richest person with \$16 billion made from computer software

New issue OUT NOW!



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The sauce peddlin', Grammy grabbin', 14 million vendin' talk of the bally globe, Alanis Morissette, celebrates her 22nd birthday with the world's only essential music magazine.

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AND! The most comprehensive album reviews on earth. This month: Electronic, Neil Young, Blur, Black Crowes, The Jam, and Dexys Midnight Runners.

DON'T FORGET! Elvis, Mark Morrison, Blondie, US punk, The Olympics and Yoko Ono.



OUT NOW! WE OUGHTA KNOW...

Britons killed in flash flood named

DIPLOMATS last night named three of the four British victims of a flash flood which killed seven people in the Gulf state of Oman. Another Briton, not named, was still missing last night as rescuers gave up the search for the night.

Andy Deller, aged 34, from Eastbourne, East Sussex, was thought to have died trying to rescue other members of a 20-strong British party.

The other victims named by the British embassy in Oman were William Love, from Strathclyde, and Karen Salt, from Muscat, Oman's capital. No further details were given.

Two American airmen and a Dutch woman were also killed. Another Briton injured in the accident was last night in a stable condition in hospital.

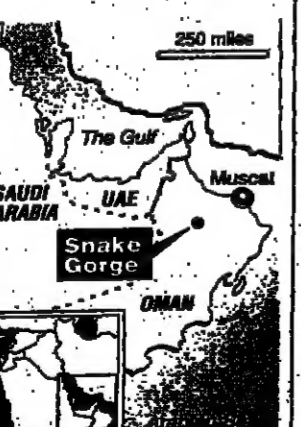
The flood swept through the Snake Gorge, near Rustaq, a popular hiking area 100 miles west of Muscat, on Friday.

Several groups of walkers were at different points in the gorge, as the Jebel Akhdar mountains when the water swamped them.

Mr Deller's brother, David, also of Eastbourne, said last night: "I understand that Andy and Karen were swept down the ravine and was just pulling his friend up out of the water when the water came down the mountainside like a torrent and swept them away. That was his brother. He was a courageous and brave man. He was always very active and a keen sportsman. He was very well thought of by everyone that knew him. I am heartbroken."

The British victims were in a party walking along the gorge and a dried river bed when the tragedy occurred. They all worked in Oman.

Rain water, which is thought to have collected further up the mountains, ap-



peared without warning and engulfed them.

A spokesman for the embassy in Muscat said: "The victims were terribly unlucky. There is always a risk when going on these excursions, but it was a popular tour and people don't really expect any danger."

Snake Gorge, also known as Wadi Bimash, is narrower than most at around 50ft. It is a tricky two-hour walk, involving clambering over rocks and jumping in pools of water which stand despite temperatures which reach up to 50C.

The embassy spokesman said the 6,000-strong British community living in Oman was shocked and deeply distressed.

Mr Deller had been working in the country as a deputy security manager for telecommunications firm Nortel for six years.

Previously, he served with the Royal Anglian Regiment, travelling all over the world and reaching the rank of colour sergeant.

His girlfriend Rachel Elson, who works for Virgin Atlantic at Gatwick airport, had been due to fly to Oman last week but had to cancel the trip because she had been unable to find a return flight, his brother said. She was being comforted by friends.

Security chief Lebed aims to be Yeltsin's second in command

GENERAL Alexander Lebed made his clearest grab for power at the weekend, proposing that the post of vice-president, abolished after the crushing 1993 parliamentary revolt, should be reinstated for him.

With speculation about Boris Yeltsin's health continuing as the president failed to keep an engagement yesterday - his fourth day out of the public eye - Gen Lebed said the need to resolve the war in Chechnya demanded a second in command. At the moment the role is filled by the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The general, the new head of security, said on a television programme recorded a week ago: "A person with strong, authoritatively allocated constitutional powers should cover

this field of work." He rejected the role of prime minister in a future government, saying that was an economic job and he was a man of action.

"Moreover, in public consciousness, the name of Lebed and the post of premier don't match. But Lebed as vice-president, yes," he said.

Since he joined the Yeltsin campaign by accepting the posts of security adviser and secretary of the security council, Gen Lebed has been keen to talk up his new power in the Kremlin. He fears that if Mr Yeltsin wins the second round of the presidential election on Wednesday by a wide margin he could suddenly find himself less important.

While he was responsible for purging three security ministers, a vice-premier and seven top generals, Mr Yeltsin has been remarkably reluctant to replace them with Lebed men.

Gen Lebed has been pres-



Gen Lebed... man of action

ident Alexander Rubkol, led the parliamentary revolt that October.

Mr Yeltsin's failure to turn up at an outdoor event organised by a Moscow newspaper yesterday added to concern about his health. He was last seen in public on Wednesday, and cancelled his public engagements on Friday. He is said to have developed laryngitis giving a stream of interviews to local newspapers and television channels.

But he has kept up the campaigning, reviving a strongly nationalist theme. He said he planned to visit one of the four Kurile islands north of Japan, which Tokyo claims, and warned Turkey and NATO that Russia would "re-examine" if they tried to change the military balance of power in the Black Sea.

The rise of big vice, says of

Breakfast at Claridge's? Heathrow is better, claims Egon Ronay

THE fruit slice is as good as the tastiest pastries at the plush Cafe Royal; the doughnuts compare with the best at Harvey Nichols; and the breakfasts are just as good as Claridge's.

Egon Ronay, who knows his onions, believes the food at British airports now ranks with the best. Edinburgh is pretty good, but Heathrow and Gatwick are the tops, says the food critic. The fruit slice can be scoffed at the Metro at Gatwick; the succulent dough-

nuts are on offer in the Upper Crust in Edinburgh; and Harry Ramsden's fish and chip restaurant at Heathrow makes the finest breakfast.

Some, though, might think Mr Ronay biased. The British Airports Authority commissioned him four

years ago to raise the standard of food and catering at its seven airports. His inspectors test the quality of all food and drink at the 130 restaurants and snack bars once a month.

He says they are streets ahead of European airports.

Also flying off the shelves were titles such as Chicken Soup for the Soul, The Road Less Travelled and Spontaneous Healing. But no-one can sell spirituality to Americans quite like Deepak Chopra, the New Age industry's answer to Billy Graham.

Ian Katz, G2 page 4

4 BRITAIN

Ex-BR chief attacks bus firm ethics

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

THE former chairman of British Rail has strongly criticised the business ethics of Britain's second biggest bus company, Stagecoach, which is poised to become one of the largest private rail operators.

In a World in Action programme to be screened tonight, Sir Bob Reid questions the practices of the highly acquisitive company set up by brother and sister team Brian Souther and Anne Glog, which has grown from a two-bus operation in 1980 to a global business with 8,000 buses and 24,000 employees.

In the same programme, MPs express their concern about the government fuel subsidy which has contributed a major proportion of the company's profits, helping Mrs Glog to become the second richest woman in Britain after the Queen.

The company grew by a rapid succession of takeovers of small and medium-sized bus and coach companies, but has been frequently investigated by the Office of Fair Trading. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission has criticised Stagecoach on eight separate occasions, and in Darlington — where it helped put the municipal bus company out of business — its tactics were described as "deplorable and against the public interest".

Sir Bob, who stepped down from BR last year after preparing the rail network for privatisation, says of Stage-

coach's tactics in Darlington: "Corporate ethics are not only important, but they're common sense. If you don't behave in an ethical way and you don't behave sensibly, then essentially you lose your licence to operate. You lose it morally and you lose it ethically, and in the end you lose it legally and that cannot be sensible".

Stagecoach has recently taken over the franchise to run South West Trains, for which it receives an annual subsidy of £24 million.

Fred Sprosser, Stagecoach's former general administrator, says the company's policy has always been to "stifle the competition before it has time to affect them".

He reveals how the company learned to take advantage of the Government's rebate on fuel duty, for which a firm becomes eligible provided its buses stop every 15 miles. Last year the rebate was worth £37 million to Stagecoach, whose profits were £41 million.

Michael Stern, Conservative MP for Bristol North-west, and a member of the Public Accounts Committee, tells World in Action: "It is still very questionable whether a blanket subsidy on fuel is the best, most efficient way of actually running a bus service. I don't think it is. The Public Accounts Committee in 1989 didn't think it is."

"We are still waiting for a response from the Government".

Stagecoach declined to be interviewed on the programme, and was not available for comment yesterday.



Drummers Aly and Laure protest outside the go-kart track at West Pier, Brighton, East Sussex, which was their preferred performance site on the beach

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROSE PEARSON

Pier group beats war drum after sessions silenced

Nick Varley on musicians fighting for freedom on the beaches

FOR some it's welcome entertainment, an entrancing sound-track to lazy Sunday afternoons. To others it's an unholy row.

Now the drummers of Brighton beach are promising just that if they are forced to stop their spontaneous public jamming sessions.

And to add to the hullabaloo, the row is being peppered with the phrase of the moment for any self-respecting spat: New Labour.

Green councillor Pete West said: "The drummers don't fit with New Labour's vision for Brighton sea front. They would seem to represent yet another nuisance to be swept off the streets with a Jack Straw style brush."

The weekly drumming sessions began two summers ago when a handful of percussionists started up one Sunday at the West Pier. The ad-hoc band grew weekly until 30 or more performers were beating out rhythms loved by some and loathed by others.

With West African djembes, designed to be heard miles away, among the line-up, the third of complaints landing at Brighton council offices quickly built up too.

Only a compromise under which the drummers

agreed to stop by 8pm allowed them to stay throughout last summer.

Last year Mr Durr has had enough. It claims the drummers have repeatedly played on — and not just on Sundays either.

Labour councillor Andy Durr, chairman of the arts and leisure committee, said: "Once an agreement starts to fall apart there's no point keeping it."

And so the drummers' spot is now home to a child-

the site, needed revenue and we told them it could rent it out."

Last year Mr Durr told The Guardian: "The drummers are great. It's a Brighton thing."

Yesterday he said: "I year I was terribly favour and I still am. I the problem the local authority has is a simple one the drummers aren't or nised in any form of pvt and will not self-pol themselves. There a drummers who have b going until 3.30 in t morning. What that doing is driving people sane. There've been awful lot of complaints."

There are no plans offer the drummers a other site unless they agr to co-operate fully with t council to draw up sor kind of register of those volved, he added.

Richard, one of the musicians, said such a m would mean losing t spontaneity of the session.

But the appearance of t go-kart track may at lea accelerate some organis tion among the drummer they are promising to fist the retrospective plannu application.

"People keep saying w don't we just move," Richard said. "But there's n point because once they've done it to us once they'll d it again."

'There are drummers who have been going until 3.30 in the morning'

drum's play area featuring a new type of noise pollution from a go-kart track.

Mr Durr admitted the scheme does not have planning permission — "through an oversight" — but denied it was aimed at removing the drummers.

"The council has been redeveloping the site for the last four years and this is the latest phase. The West Pier Trust, which is applying for a National Lottery grant to restore the pier and is responsible for

BSE 'inducing suicide'

David Fallister

MORE farmers will die from suicide induced by the BSE crisis than the number of people who are killed from eating beef, Charles Runge, the chief executive of the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE), warned yesterday as he announced a full-time Samaritan helpline on the eve of the annual Royal Show.

The service, run jointly by the society, the National Farmers Union and the Samaritans, will be based on the

show site at Stoneleigh, in Warwickshire.

Despite protests from some farmers, the show will still be opened today by the European Agricultural Commissioner, Franz Fischler, whom many farmers blame for the EU ban on British beef.

Mr Runge said Mr Fischler had been invited before the beef crisis reached its peak. RASE leaders believed he should attend so he could see how farmers felt.

He urged farmers at the show to give the commissioner a courteous welcome. "I am not sure whether there

is going to be trouble or not, hope not," he said. But he admitted there was a "real danger" the show would be "taken over" by the subject of BSE.

High suicide rates have long been been a feature of farming — 983 killed themselves in the 1990s — but "because of BSE it has come roaring to a head," Mr Runge said. "A lot of people who have contacted me are not so much angry as bloody frightened. They see their livelihoods being taken away from them for reasons they don't understand."

Boy, 9, dies in house fire after saving his family

A BOY aged nine has lost his life in rescuing his family from a fire at their Merseyside home.

Sean Evans raised the alarm, ensuring that his parents, two brothers and sister escaped the blaze, which broke out in their council house in Beechwood, Birkenhead, around 9am yesterday.

Firefighters said Sean and two of the other children were in the lounge when they heard a noise and discovered the fire in the hallway.

Sean closed the door on the other two and rushed upstairs to alert his parents, who were in bed. His father climbed out of the window, got a ladder and rescued his wife and youngest child from a back bedroom. Then he smashed the lounge window and got the other two children out.

But Sean was apparently trapped by a "blowtorch" effect as the fire raced up the stairwell, bursting out of the windows. It took firefighters using breathing hoses 15 minutes to get the blaze under control. They found Sean's body in a front bedroom.

His parents and the other children, aged six to 11, were being treated in hospital last night for smoke inhalation and shock.

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News in brief

Danes retreat in fishing dispute

A RENEWED battle between Greenpeace protesters and Danish fishermen ended yesterday after the Danes appeared to pull out of waters off Scotland's east coast.

Stolen masters recovered

BRITISH detectives have helped colleagues in Germany and the Czech Republic break an international ring of art thieves and recover 14 "priceless" paintings.

Vicar resigns after allegations

A CHURCH of England vicar resigned his parishes after an investigation by his bishop into allegations made against him, it was revealed yesterday.

Park stabbing charge

A TEENAGER is due in court today following the stabbing of a Russian student minutes after England's defeat in the Euro '96 semi-finals.

Two share lottery jackpot

TWO ticket holders have split the National Lottery jackpot, scooping £5.2 million each.

Charities see budget cuts and lottery as twin threats to Third World aid

Owen Bowcott

THE twin threats of competition from the National Lottery and Treasury cuts in the overseas aid budget may undermine Britain's contribution to developing countries.

spending will be squeezed to provide tax cuts ahead of the next general election, British charities are launching a campaign to prevent Third World aid from slipping down the political agenda.

budget for the Government's Overseas Development Administration. Some charities suspect that, whereas Douglas Hurd as foreign secretary protected overseas aid, it has become vulnerable in the tougher economic climate since Malcolm Rifkind took the post.

Other G7 nations, such as Italy, the US and France, had made bigger cuts than Britain in their international aid budgets in the past few years. The National Lottery has increased competition among charities for the nation's spare change.

According to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, donations are down by 8.3 per cent because of the lottery. VSO, which has around 1,900 Britons working abroad passing on professional skills to local people, saw a 40 per cent drop in receipts from its latest fund-raising raffle.

Table with 2 columns: Year, Amount. Rows for 1992/93, 93/94, 94/95, 95/96, 96/97, 97/98, 98/99.



SIMMON DAY, the Dartford countryside warden, uses a coracle to inspect the last fresh water marsh on the River Thames, which the owner Glaxo Wellcome wants to develop.

about the proposal although the area is designated an "economic development site" in the local plan. Many schools use the site for wildlife studies and bird watchers perch on the flood embankments overlooking the site to study migrants in the autumn and spring.

Advertisement for Direct Line mortgages. Large text: 'Oops. We've dropped our mortgage rate again.' Includes contact numbers for London, Manchester, and Glasgow.

Parents' hotline fights Internet porn

Nicholas Bannister Technology Editor. PARENTS worried that their children might be downloading pornography and other unsuitable material from the Internet will be able to get help over the phone from a national advice service launched today by an American group.

Kingdom marketing director, said it could be used by anyone, not just Netcom customers. "We want to give parents enough information to empower them to select and regulate a child's usage of the Internet," he said.

Parents ringing the advice line will, for example, be able to get information about software packages which deny access to certain web pages and prevent the use of certain key search words.

Calls to the Bracknell number (01844-395501) will be charged at the standard rate rather than at a premium rate. Mr Furniss admitted that the group hoped many of the callers would eventually become Netcom customers.

Howard's jail term power 'unfair'

Claire Dyer Legal Correspondent. THE Home Secretary's powers to decide how long prisoners serving mandatory life sentences for murder should stay in jail are "unfair, unnecessary and anachronistic", the law reform group Justice argues in a report today.

Westminster Bank, says major changes in criteria and procedures for deciding prison terms have been made by ministers without the approval of Parliament or the courts. Decisions cannot easily be challenged and can be influenced by political motives.

The report coincides with an appeal by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, to a High Court ruling that he acted unlawfully in setting a 15-year tariff for Jon Venables and Robert Thompson, the 11-year-old killers of James Bulger.

had recommended eight years and the Lord Chief Justice 10. The judges ruled that the law governing child murderers required their time in custody to be kept under regular review.

Advertisement for G2 cover story. Text: 'Everything is coming to an end. Not just the century but art, architecture, work, the family, ideology and history. Charles Leadbeater'.

Advertisement for LQ of 145 and Can't Remember? Includes a form for requesting a copy of the book.

6 WORLD NEWS

News in brief

Woman kills five in suicide bomb attack

A FEMALE Kurdish rebel killed herself and at least five soldiers in a suicide bomb attack on a military parade in Tunceli in eastern Turkey yesterday.

16 die in Colombia massacre

MASKED gunmen fired indiscriminately on people at a bus terminal and a pool hall in the western Colombian city of Medellin on Saturday, killing at least 16 and wounding four.

Bug baffles US scientists

AMERICANS have been told they can eat strawberries again but to avoid raspberries as baffled biologists continue their hunt for the transmission path of an elusive microbe that had hospitalised over a thousand people in 11 states.

Euthanasia becomes legal

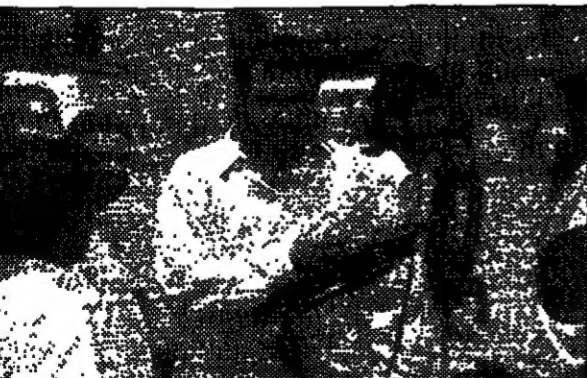
THE world's first law permitting assisted suicides for terminally ill patients takes effect in Australia's Northern Territory today, with supporters saying fresh regulations make the law useless and critics confident of winning a legal challenge.

Flood misery for Amazonians

MORE than 10,000 Amazonian Indians are homeless and destitute after the Orinoco river broke its banks and flooded vast swathes of Venezuela's southern Amazonas state.

China clamps down on films

THE Chinese government has tightened regulations on Chinese films made with assistance from foreign studios, according to the People's Daily.



Bullets for ballots... Supporters of candidates contesting elections in Pakistan-held Kashmir wield assault rifles in Rawalpindi yesterday

'Child-eating' wolf shot dead

A WOLF has been shot dead in northern India after it was believed to have killed at least 18 children over the past two months, the Press Trust of India said yesterday.

What is it that jars so about the London manner? I'm sure it's something to do with the imperial tone: London calling! Andrew Moncur

G2 page 4

Hong Kong begins one-year countdown with pro-China celebrations dwarfing democracy vigil

Lion dances foretell end to British rule

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong
HONG KONG democrats held a candlelit vigil last night to mark the final one-year countdown to Chinese rule, but their demonstration was dwarfed by an afternoon funfair organised by pro-Chinese groups.

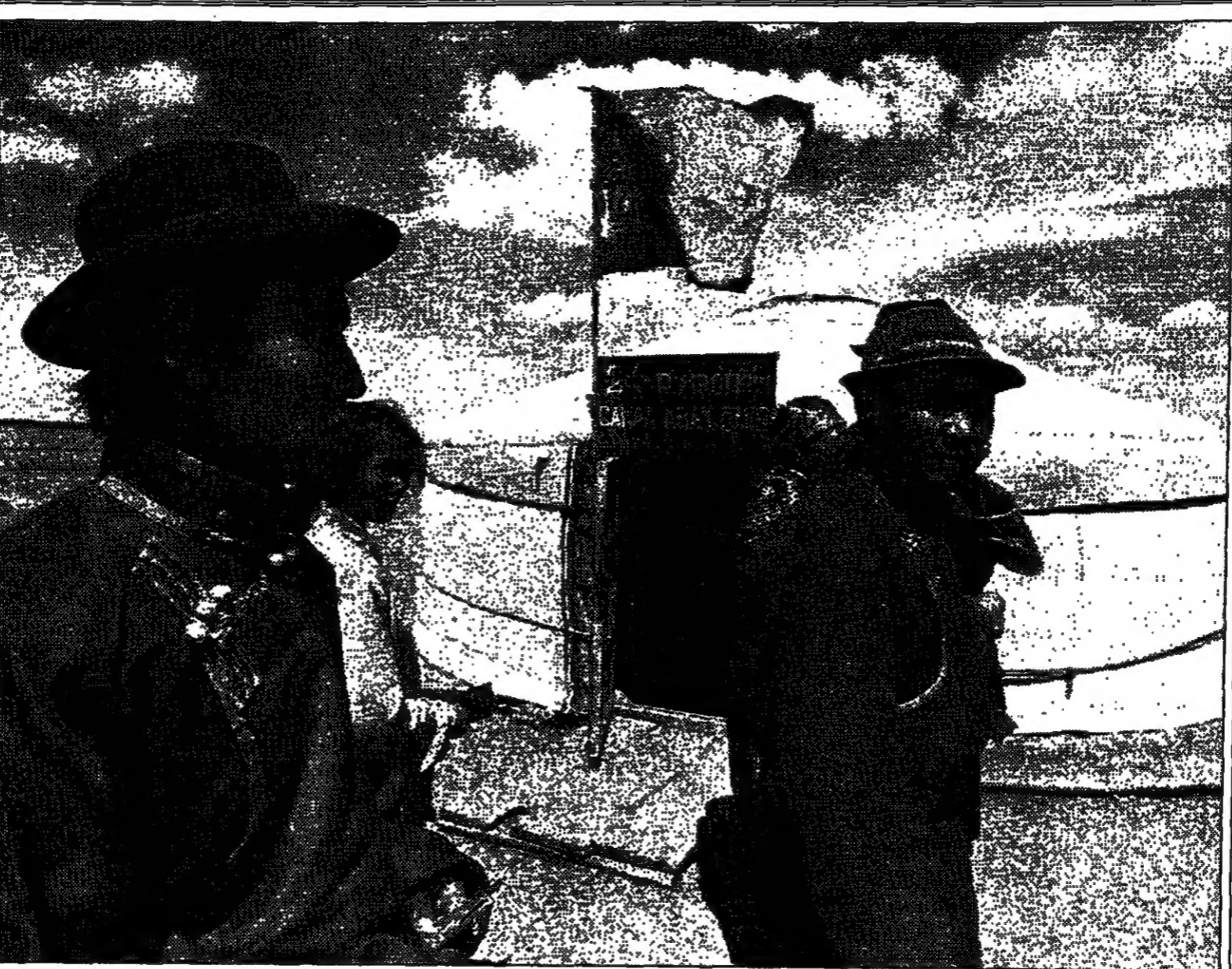
Pro-Chinese groups organised celebratory events across the territory, with concerts, lion dances, speeches and telephone link-ups with the mainland. A big party is scheduled in Beijing today, with more than 600 performers on a televised variety show.

The return of Hong Kong to the motherland is a great and shining moment in the history of China, said the People's Daily, the newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party. Today, under the leadership of the Communist Party, the people of China have stood up and finally will wash away a century of national shame.

Pro-Chinese groups organised celebratory events across the territory, with concerts, lion dances, speeches and telephone link-ups with the mainland. A big party is scheduled in Beijing today, with more than 600 performers on a televised variety show.

Britain has kept its word on democratic development in Hong Kong. It remains to be seen whether China will, he said. The only reason we don't have a 'through train' for our legislature is that China wanted an arrangement which would keep some people off the train altogether, regardless of the fact that people of Hong Kong wanted to vote for them.

official responsible for Hong Kong, has said journalists will have freedom to "report" but not to "advocate" taboo causes, such as independence for Taiwan, Tibet or Hong Kong.



Shifting support... Mongolian nomads wait by a polling station in Mongolia's Hentii province yesterday. Voters, some riding for hours on horseback, turned out in huge numbers to choose between the ruling former communists and a coalition of economic and political liberals

Investors' confidence in Vietnam crumbles

Nicholas Cumming-Bruce in Hanoi
A YELLOW hotel, its 18 storeys soaring above a jumble of low-rise Hanoi houses and construction sites, is a landmark to the rapid changes rattling this once-sleepy capital of faded colonial villas and lakes.

Foreign businessmen, intended to be the main clientele of this Korean-built hotel, pay nearly \$200 (£130) a day for a room, the average annual income of the Vietnamese. Close by stand a green block of flats and a tower block the colour of gun-metal that has doubled Hanoi's international-grade office space.

Today and normal trading should resume. But the atmosphere of gloom will not lift so quickly. Ten years after a crisis-ridden, half-starved Vietnam decided to switch to a market economy, foreign businessmen have been surprised to find themselves the butt of criticism by old Communist ideologues now worried by what is happening to the country's values and independence.

Investors' confidence has been eroded by frequent rule changes, bureaucracy, corruption, and land laws that cause confusion and delay. Paradoxically, these conditions have deterred the cowboy investors that used to plague Vietnam. In their place are coming more serious enterprises weighing the opportunities in a country of 75 million people with a bottomless need for goods and services.

Foreign expectations of Vietnam in the early days of its glasnost were almost certainly unrealistically high. Now the pendulum has swung the other way. They have eradicated the good will they had two years ago, said a frustrated consultant bluntly. "The love affair is over for good - it won't come back."

Dublin ready for closer Europe without Britain

The new Irish EU presidency has plans to boost integration. John Palmer reports

THE Irish government, which took over the presidency of the European Union at midnight, plans to speed up preparations for a new treaty on political union even if this risks renewed conflict between the British government and its European partners.

The prime minister, John Bruton, wants to try to bridge the gulf between Britain and the rest of the EU during Ireland's six-month presidency, starting with a special Maastricht treaty review summit in Dublin in October.

Other hand, Ireland is far closer to the continent in terms of its social philosophy. We will not settle for a lowest common denominator agreement in the conference. The Irish leader said he would like to see EU citizens vote in a common political election.

is confident that the 1999 deadline for the single currency will be realised. Perhaps there will be more flexible interpretation of the Maastricht treaty, Maurice O'Connell, the governor of the bank, said.

Dublin also wants to push for closer co-operation on international crime. "There are very important things we can do together, such as harmonising sentencing for drugs trafficking, stronger measures against the cross-border drugs trade and better forensic co-operation," Mr Bruton said.

ments who - unlike Britain - have pledged to abandon internal border controls. "With the British refusing to join the Schengen countries in a border-free area, it would mean us putting up border controls with Northern Ireland if we went with the majority," a senior Dublin official said. "Given the importance of the peace process in Northern Ireland, I cannot imagine us doing this."

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A question of commitment

The real message from Bosnia

RADOVAN KARADZIC is adept at waiting till the very end before he jumps. The question now is whether, by renouncing his presidential powers while being re-elected to lead the ruling Serb Democratic Party, he has genuinely stepped back or has simply made fools of the G7 summit and its stern "ultimatum".

The central issue is not Mr Karadzic but whether the outside world settled in reality at Dayton for a permanently divided Bosnia, or is still striving to reverse the consequences of the civil war.

On Wednesday night, a friend of mine was at Trafalgar Square. The atmosphere was highly charged but generally peaceful. Why the police decided to encircle the area in full riot regalia, preventing anyone from leaving, is anyone's guess.

The message from the G7 this weekend is that "we want Mr Karadzic... out of power and out of influence." But Mr Bildt's own spokesman acknowledged yesterday that the threat of renewed sanctions is now "on hold".

The motherland calls

But Hong Kong still needs its freedoms

ONE YEAR from today Hong Kong will wake up under Chinese rule or — as some will prefer to say — to rejoin the motherland. The number of Hong Kongers who, as the time approaches, feel a surge of patriotism — whether spontaneously or to please the mainland — should not be underestimated.

The handover may well surprise most people by seeming to go quite smoothly. Disputes over who salutes which flag at what ceremony are in the end of little consequence. Beijing will probably take some pains to avoid any immediate shocks.



Letters to the Editor

Big match, bad result

SOCCER violence is obscene, pathetic, vulgar and stupid. Exactly the same adjectives may be applied to a disturbingly high number of the police who control these outbreaks.

When things started to get confrontational, my friend tried to leave, along with two girls he was with. Taking their hands, he approached an officer blocking their exit and told him they wanted to get home.

We could do well to remember that mindless hoodlumism and gang violence exist in many of our great British institutions, not just on the terraces.

If Euro 96 was such a compelling entertainment, why haven't more people gone to watch it? England and Scotland have played to full houses but no others did.

Offrendy

THE Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, has yet again attacked teachers, teacher-trainers and education advisers (Teachers' Agency).

In the 1930s, the same Chris Woodhead, former teacher-trainer and education adviser, wrote an extraordinarily progressive article, entitled Getting the proper attention, in which he put forward the very views he now condemns.

If that puts a lot on the referee, then lighten his workload by back-up. Take time-keeping out of his hands, and let the linesmen stop the game as can rugby's touch-judges when they see something the referee may have missed.

Steve Seddon, Meadowcroft, Sandyfields, Baldwins Gate, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs ST15 5DW.

Sand in Rifkind's face

MUSLIMS do not need Malcolm Rifkind (Desert despines, June 28) to tell them that Islam condemns terrorism in all its forms. But there is something just a little disingenuous about his claim that the bombing near Dhahran was a "terrorist" attack.

Terrorists usually attack civilians not soldiers. US troops are in Saudi Arabia propping up a brutally absolute monarchy, whose idea of political dialogue is to arrest, imprison, torture, and even murder dissidents.

Mr Rifkind is right in another respect. Britain does have important friends in the Middle East, even if all of them are tinpot dictators or monarchs: President Mubarak of Egypt, who is invariably elected because he and his generals ensure that nobody else is allowed to stand; King Hussein of Jordan, whose only claim to legitimacy is his royal ancestry; President Assad of Syria, who is needed to secure the last piece of the jigsaw of the peace process.

Without them, the Iran-Iraq war, which led to the invasion of Kuwait, might never have happened.

A Country Diary

REDGRAVE AND LOPHAM, FEN, SUFFOLK: A beautiful, warm dun colour, with black stockings and tail, and a short black mane continuing as a dark "eel stripe" down the back; they are some of the most striking ponies you are ever likely to see.

est to the surface to dry out and degrade, while the previously lush vegetation has been invaded by scrub species. Redgrave's owners, the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, are co-ordinating a £3.6 million rescue programme, which includes Essex and Suffolk water, re-siting their borehole elsewhere, the mechanical removal of the rotted peat and the reduction of the rank vegetation. This is the point at which the ponies make their entrance, for they can thrive on the poorest of grazing. In time, the horses will help restore Redgrave to something like its former glory.

However, there is a curious irony overshadowing the project. While the ponies are pioneering conservation work in Britain, Polish environmentalists have had little success in persuading their own government that these home-grown ponies are the answer to environmental problems threatening Poland's much larger and internationally important wetlands.

MARK COCKER

Victoria and Albert, an elderly couple in need of rehousing

IT IS very difficult in Britain to build anything that is truly creative. The mundane has become the norm. This reaction to anything new has plagued us this century, allowing Paris and New York to establish themselves, at London's expense, as the visual arts capitals of the world.

Already this year, the lack of vision and manoeuvres of a small group of vociferous, self-appointed critics have denied us the opportunity of a major work of art in the form of Zaha Hadid's Cardiff Bay Opera House.

It is also a sad indication of this lack of confidence in the future that hundreds of millions of pounds of lottery money raised to mark the Millennium is being spent on remodelling of existing buildings while we ignore the equally important need for inspiring new buildings.

An exceptional new opportunity has arisen. Daniel Libeskind has designed a brilliant new wing for the robust Victoria and Albert Museum buildings. But already the critics are baying for Libeskind's blood — "a disaster for civilisation", "the tearing down of the old culture of

My one criticism of Radio 4 is that the pub doesn't shut early enough for me to listen to a book at bedtime

THERE is a noticeably sardonic attitude from your writers with regards to the single most important media service in my life, Radio 4.

Does Mr Lawson actually listen to Radio 4 or is he committing the cardinal sin of presumption? In my view, it is the most progressive of media formats (closely followed by the Guardian 2) and seems to efficiently embrace the spirit of our collective hopes for the new Millennium.

As for pigeon-holing us, Ms Campbell should not be so sure. I am 22 and a non-practising capitalist. I certainly have never followed any standard modes of life since the age of 12.

Christian Paddell, 59b Gauden Road, Clapham, London SW4 6LL.

Pen power

VERONICA Guerin was so effective as a journalist that she was not allowed to live (The tragedy is there are no rules anymore, June 28). Her murder was an act of barbarism, and it was the most prestigious award of recognition a journalist can receive.

At a time when there are editors who not only accept knighthoods and other awards from governments but actually boast about it, Guerin's murder reminds us that a good journalist is a thorn in the side of authority, not its FR consultant.

Oliver Cox, 3 Wynnstay Grove, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6XG.

est to the surface to dry out and degrade, while the previously lush vegetation has been invaded by scrub species. Redgrave's owners, the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, are co-ordinating a £3.6 million rescue programme, which includes Essex and Suffolk water, re-siting their borehole elsewhere, the mechanical removal of the rotted peat and the reduction of the rank vegetation. This is the point at which the ponies make their entrance, for they can thrive on the poorest of grazing. In time, the horses will help restore Redgrave to something like its former glory.

Time to explode the myth of the Bomb

Labour Prime Minister leans on it, the whole world will be destroyed.

Unfortunately, their understanding of nuclear strategy is no better than their grasp of the release mechanism. Perhaps we should not blame them. The complex idea that we possess nuclear weapons and do not want to use them is difficult to untangle. And the judgment that the best way of preventing a holocaust is the willingness to cause one is a sophistication of that paradox.

It was beyond President Reagan's comprehension. That is why, in the early eighties, he talked about surviving a nuclear war as if we were preparing to fight one. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament could not understand it either. But they have had time to learn. I risk my new status as champion of the Labour left by saying that the nuclear weapons on both sides of the Oder-Neisse Line, kept all of Europe at peace as well as Western Europe free.

The deterrent has no point if the politicians who control it use admit that they would never give the ultimate instruction. That is why, in the bad old days, Washington and Moscow with London limping gamely behind — spent so much time analysing each other's intentions. Once upon a time, I used to read Foreign Office telegrams which examined the speeches of obscure Russian academicians as if the texts were the Dead Sea Scrolls. "It will be noted that nuclear release was discussed in the subjunctive mood. This was not the case when he spoke to the Thales Scientific Institute last March." We were always anxious to receive the Soviets' exact message — even when they were not sending one.

In the early sixties — as Denis Healey's deputy at the Ministry of Defence — I observed (though rarely contributed to) the process of sending the right signals east. It was a time when a combination of Robert McNamara's super-power strength and Healey's restless intellect was changing Nato strategy from "trip wire" to "graduated response." "One army boot over the demarcation line, and we destroy Moscow" evolved into a more subtle reaction that allowed time for second thoughts and the rectification of mistakes. Sending the right signals became increasingly important.

I can remember discussing a hypothetical invasion of West Germany to which we reacted by firing a tactical nuclear weapon at an uninhabited island in the middle of a remote lake. Did the declaratory strike demonstrate determination or infirmity of purpose? I cannot remember what we decided. But the argument was great fun.

I also recall an examination of something called Medivac — the evacuation of wounded troops from Europe after the Soviet nuclear strike. Preparations for the eventuality which we were determined to avoid were extremely expensive. So I wondered why, if we were confident of deterring the aggressor, we should spend the money — especially as, if the unthinkable happened, there would certainly be very few casualties to bring home and probably no home

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

TONY Blair has allowed the silliest diversion to confuse the political issues during the last election campaigns. And polling day may still be almost a year away. Last week, somebody asked if there were any circumstances in which he would press the nuclear button. Quite rightly, he answered "Yes" — more or less.

The absurdity of the question is confirmed by the triviality of the image by which it was expressed — though I suspect that the journalist who asked it did not realise that the button is purely metaphorical. In the simplistic world of political reporting, Jules Verne and H G Wells still design nuclear hardware. In their imaginary ideas, there is in the bowels of Downing Street, something that looks like a bell push. If the new

never understand why the balance of power required Britain to possess what Harold Wilson once described as "the so-called independent, so-called nuclear, so-called deterrent." The French had theirs because they needed to prove their military virility. I could not, in my naive way, believe that we were motivated by the same feelings of inadequacy.

Now I cannot see why we have the bloody thing at all. Certainly we cannot play the same complicated game with Iran and North Korea that we once played with the Soviet Union. And the Libyans are not carefully monitoring our manoeuvres to decide our intention. Since Colonel Gaddafi is wholly unpredictable, it is no point in wasting time trying to predict his intentions.

While we possess a nuclear weapon it is only sensible to say that we might use it. That is the obligation of the old strategy. In the new circumstances, it may become more sensible to save the money by giving it up completely.



Paris Diary

Alex Duval Smith

IT WAS just a flimsy fax from an unknown reader. But it struck a chord with Jacques Cypel, clearing his desk this weekend after putting to bed the final issue of Unzer Wort (Our Word), the world's last daily Yiddish newspaper.

Artful shoppers get the whole picture

Commentary

Mark Lawson

FIRST poetry was "the new rock'n'roll" then stand-up comedy then opera. Now painting is apparently the latest minority taste to be foisted on the majority.

considerable amount of social and familial suspicion and pity. A steady flow of watercolours and charcoals, though, is regarded as a routine and respectable response to superannuation, divorce or unemployment.

painting leads to the third element in art's image problem: the ridiculous prices paid on the international market for individual works.

What Delia did for ciabatta, Wendy hopes to do for Canaletto

us the creative collaboration which has always seemed to me to have about it a terrible logic: a Lloyd-Webber musical set in the international art market, with lyrics by Lord Archer.

How the very rich earn their pocket money



Paul Foot

IT WOULD be rotten luck on Henry Sweetbaum, chairman and chief executive of the Wickes Group, if he was forced to part with a penny of his £750,000 from a "share incentive scheme".

time were sickening enough—but nothing like as sickening as today's equivalent: the shameless pocket-stuffing of the rich.

In Hunt's day, the answer was to give everyone the vote, to average themselves on Old Corruption at the ballot box.

What reason can there be for Labour's volte face? Does any one on the Labour front bench contend that it is more tolerable to dismiss unfairly an employee than a long-standing one?

Can Boris Yeltsin keep Alexander Lebed at bay? On the eve of the second round of presidential elections, David Hearst advises the Russian president to watch his back

Might of the General

BORIS YELTSIN in all probability will be declared the winner of the second round of presidential elections on Wednesday.

This widespread uncertainty about the difference between good painting and bad painting leads to the third element in art's image problem: the ridiculous prices paid on the international market for individual works.

turbulent Lebed wants to cash his chips in now, rather than wait until after the election when his power may not be so great.



is so heavily dependent on his heartland vote that a few million voters who stay away at their dachas in Moscow and St Petersburg could make all the difference to Yeltsin.

YELTSIN has learned long ago not to reward his courtiers for their loyalty. Soskovyets, the man who saved Yeltsin's bacon by emerging from a plane to meet the then Irish prime minister Albert Reynolds in Shannon, while the president was asleep—

TONY BLAIR should have another look at the video of his speech to the last Labour conference. All those carefully-worked-out phrases were commitments.

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mb

10 OBITUARIES

Bobby Keetch

This football business

HE WORE a bob watch to make his statement in the 1960s. Professional footballers...

Business interests or shouldn't have a life outside match day and the training ground. In his own way, he was as much a pioneer...

left. "Tosh" Chamberlain; he acted as a kind of counterpoint to the artistry of his friend, the immaculate Johnny Haynes...

In fact, was fashionable then. Much was later made of Keetch's affair with an heiress, of his arrival at the Cottage in a Rolls Royce...

Vic Buckingham became the Fulham manager. Buckingham, with his tribby hats and camelhair coats, had been an unlikely pro footballer...

has only just been launched. If there were excesses people readily forgave him. The Times's legendary football correspondent, Geoffrey Green...



Bobby Keetch... a bruiser on the field and a charmer off it

George Snell

Of mice and men and supergenes



George Snell... Nobel prizewinner admired for his modesty

DR GEORGE Snell, the Nobel prizewinner who has died aged 92, pioneered research in the early 1950s to demonstrate X-rays produce mutational changes in mammalian chromosomes...

particular, about public issues raised by the new genetics. Snell was born to New England parents in Bradford, Massachusetts...

Ande Anderson had been a fair boy soprano, and enrolled at the Northern Studio of Dramatic Art in 1939. As an assistant stage manager on an ENSA tour in India...

Ande Anderson

Calm nights at the opera

Ande Anderson had been a fair boy soprano, and enrolled at the Northern Studio of Dramatic Art in 1939. As an assistant stage manager on an ENSA tour in India...



Ande Anderson... he was unflappable in a crisis

Birthdays

Diana, Princess of Wales, 35; Dan Aykroyd, actor, 44; Claude Berri, film director, 62; Wayne David, Labour MEP, 38; Olivia de Havilland, actress, 80; Lady Faulkner, member, Opsahl Commission on Northern Ireland, 71; Sir Colin Fergus, former Intelligence Service Chief (C), 71; John Gould, composer, 58; Deborah Harry, singer, 51; Hans Werner Henze, composer, 70; Carl Lewis, athlete, 35; Prof Stephen Neidle, cancer researcher, 50; Sydney Pollack, film director, 63; Prof Anne Showstack Sassoon, professor of politics, Kingston University, 52; Garry Schofield, rugby league player, 31; Twyla Tharp, dancer and choreographer, 55.

Professor Edward McInnes

All present in the past

THE MOST lasting achievements of Professor Edward McInnes — professor of German literature at Hull University — who has died of cancer aged 60, were his studies of 18th and 19th century works, particularly the drama...

through to naturalism and Bertold Brecht. McInnes's approach to literature was historical. He saw texts as the struggle to make sense of a changing world and was always concerned with the connections between literature and everyday life...

Edinburgh University post, 1972. Later he took the German chair at Strathclyde, in 1979 he moved to Hull. False self-aggrandisement was alien to him. He was down-to-earth, matter-of-fact, and responded to the honesty of the realist writer's urge to understand the way that ordinary people live their lives...

that concern for humanity in his practical designs and in writing. Such values seem old-fashioned in the universities of the 1990s. McInnes was sceptical about the educational benefits of new technologies and saddened by the intellectual impoverishment caused by academic bureaucracy. But he was never bitter. His manner was warm, open and humorous, and he was grateful for the opportunity to continue his own teaching and research...

German fiction and planning further studies of 18th century literature. In his last months, his personal qualities were much in evidence. He was never remote: he was a keen supporter of Hull City FC, and through his children remained in touch with the cause of a younger generation. Neither was his academic work distant for through it he confronted the modern world with the attempts of past ages and foreign cultures to work out what it means to be human. He will be remembered with affection by his colleagues, friends and family.

Jackdaw



width. You'll ask "Why?" and there's no response! ● Down Home With Richard: displays a quicktime movie I made. Otherwise it's a pretty lame site. But the movie is cool. ● Eric's Useless Page: uses Frames, Java, GIF animation, tables. I am teaching. This is for fun and learning HTML. ● Greg's Wonderful World Of Really Boring Stuff... THE place for the weird, insane, rejected and nerdy. ● Keith Henrikson's 15 World: simply the ramblings of a boring and strange mind. ● Matt And Jesse's Kicking Web Page: currently a useless page created by two high-school students, will hopefully serve some purpose in the future. ● Rick's Home Page: a meaningless, narcissistic home page, totally void of content and there solely to impress my friends. ● Moronic Waste Of Time Page: it is just that, a moronic waste of time. Actual introductions to websites found at www.nerdworld.com/cgi-bin/One-trorders

why they created them in the first place. Funky funghi MAGIC mushrooms is our latest product. A blend of six exotic botanicals, this product is touted as "a mystical journey in a pill", a "spiritual psychedelic stimulant euphoriant", as well as a herbal simulation of the many varieties of ancient mushrooms. Magic Mushrooms contains the following sacred botanicals: Tunera Diffusa (The ancient Mexican "Witching Herb"), Eleutherococcus Senticosus (Antler Resin mushrooms), Canadensis Lucidum, Carthamus Tinctorius, Mystica Fragrans, & Ephedra Sinica. THIS PRODUCT IS 100% CAFFEINE FREE! Magic Mushrooms can be summarised as a magical, mystical, spiritually psychedelic trip. Satisfaction guaranteed for visionary vibrations. Take tablets on an empty stomach with plenty of orange juice or water.

100% NATURAL 10 tablets - £29.99 100 tablets - £299.99 Drugs for caffeine abusers advertised in Bikini. Pass-ons IS IT tacitful to suggest, after a death in the family, that the dead person's shoes should be given to a particular charity? Judge Ronald Koor-Mawer is known to Notebook readers as the Robin Hood-like figure who, for the benefit of the homeless at The Passage, Westminster Cathedral, dashes about London picking up abandoned clothes from bins, unsold garments from shops, and unseasoned food from restaurants. During a lean patch recently, he reflected on how several of his friends have died and more than one of the dependants had asked in mournful bewilderment what to do with the personal things left. To keep everything as it was forever, as Queen Victoria did after Albert's death, smacks to some people of morbidity. To throw everything out at once may seem too abrupt and painful. Yet many people like to find an outlet or a use, even in sorrow. Perhaps the choice should not have to be made at death. After all, people sign donor cards well ahead that they will allow their organs to be used after death. "Please give my clothes and shoes to The Passage, Westminster Cathedral" could make all the difference to someone's future, the renewal of their self respect — and the chance of a job. The Tablet on charity after death. Rock 'n' bulge I REMEMBER the first time I saw a real rock 'n' roll bulge, how important I thought that was in a man's attire. It was Mick Jagger, at my first big rock 'n' roll concert, the Stones at the Virginia Beach Civic Centre, when I was about 11. He was wearing white trousers, so the bulge was quite ridiculously prominent. I was standing then, on, in every picture that I saw of a cool rock 'n' roll guy, if they didn't have their bulge as well as their brilliance, I would think — something's wrong. It was style, it was sexy. It was the way that the Stones defined in my mind what was attractive in a man: monkey men and perfect skinny men... Maybe it was partly because being one of those girls seemed like the way to be a woman in rock 'n' roll. I did always want to be able to wear those tight velvet pants myself. When I was little, and playing rockstar in front of my mirror with my hairbrush for a microphone, I would get a pair of tight pants and put a sock in there and pretend I was Mick Jagger. It was embarrassing, right up there with being caught masturbating. But it wasn't because I really wanted to be a boy. I liked that look, and I liked what it represented: rock 'n' roll. Bebe Bruell was the Queen of the rock chicks. She explains the basic attraction to Details magazine. Date dump GIVE your claim to fame as being voted "Most Festerous" for your high school year book. Read a newspaper or book during the meal, ignore your date. Stare at your date's neck and grind your teeth audibly. Howl and whistle at females' legs, especially if you are a woman. Recite your dating history. Improvise. Include pets.

Upon entering the restaurant, ask for a seat away from the windows, where you have a good view of all exits, and where you can keep your back to the wall. Act nervous. Hold a debate. Take both sides. Slide under the table. Take your plate with you. Take a break, go into the rest-room. When you return to the table, throw a spare pair of underwear on the back of one of the chairs. Insist that they need airing out. Bring 20 or so candles with you, and during the meal get up and arrange them around the table in a circle. Chant. Pass the hat at the restaurant. Use the proceeds (if any) to pay the bill of what How to get rid of that unsavoury date at www.unsavourydate.com/nhughes Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4368. Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Tablet... shoes after death

Tablet... shoes after death

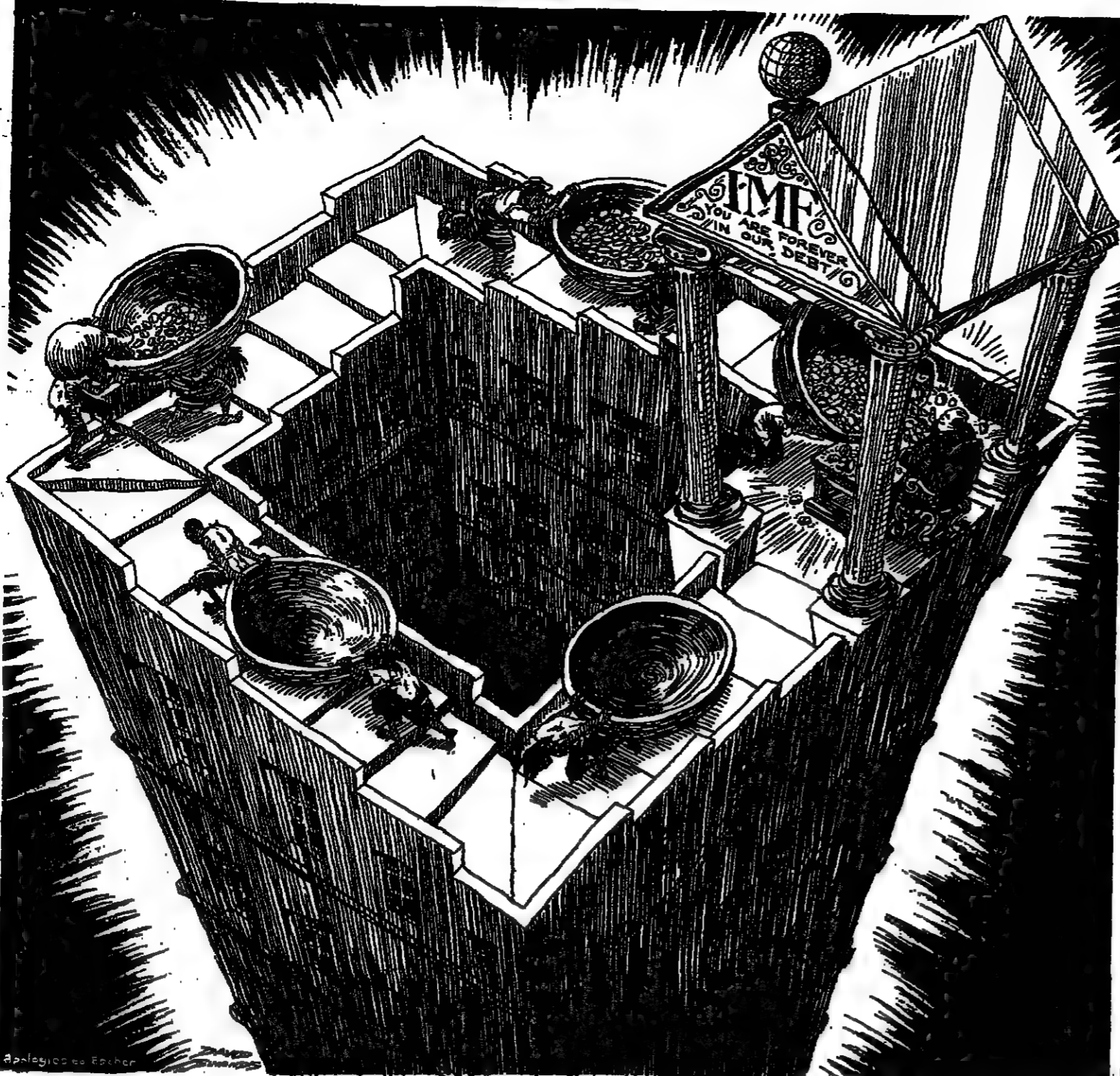
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Tablet... shoes after death

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Messy issues remain for new 'global solidarity'

COMMENTARY/Third World detects more than a whiff of moral imperialism in the air, writes Richard Thomas

AT THE close of the G7 summit in Lyon on Saturday, a laudatory summary of its achievements was given by the president of France — or rather by all five of them. While the real French leader, Jacques Chirac, elegantly described the birth of a new "global solidarity", four plastic-faced doppelgangers stood silently in front of him holding a banner with a contrasting message: G7 hurts.

The protesters had in mind the pailry offerings from the seven richest countries in the world to the dirt-poor nations of Africa, and the "franc fort" push French unemployment up past 12 per cent was acutely aware that some of the pain is local.



Chirac... no gain without pain — some of it local

Mr Chirac explained that globalisation, with increasing flows of goods and people across borders, was unstoppable. But he insisted that the process could not advance unchecked: certain controls would be needed.

On the face of it this is an uncontentious proposal and the only prime opponent, Britain, is vilified for appearing to condone such appalling practices. In fact, both the economics and morality of forcing countries to meet certain standards through trade barriers are dubious. Right and wrong means.

Countries can afford decent social standards because they are wealthy. A key component of this wealth generation is export earnings. Blocking trade would make it less, rather than more likely that the use of child workers can be phased out — and better health care and educational provision, absent from the "core" standards, can be introduced.

But the transfer of resources within the South requires a commitment to transfer resources to the South. This is where the G7 — committed as it is to budgetary stringency — starts to have second thoughts.

Other, more radical options, have been touted for global redistribution, such as a carbon tax on the big polluters of the West, which could be used for environmental protection, or the Tobin tax on foreign exchange speculation to control global capital flows.

But these ideas will be stillborn without the final part of the jigsaw: the inclusion of the developing countries in the decision-making process. Like the UN, where the veto for the permanent members of the Security Council is an anachronism, an overhaul of the G7 is long overdue. If globalisation is here to stay, it should be reflected in global institutions which allow developing nations to put down the begging bowl and take their place at the rich man's table.

ing 20 hours a week, or a 10-year-old working six? Surely the sacred British paper-boy is safe?

Whatever the answers, if any, they are for summer lunches in a Lyon café or the United Nations, not the World Trade Organisation.

In any case, other "rights" are at least as important, such as those of basic health care and education. Although difficult for affluent Europeans to stomach, there is strong case for saying it is better for children to be immunised and schooled than completely protected from the workplace — but immunisation is not on Mr Chirac's mind.

Many developing countries therefore detect more than a whiff of moral imperialism in the air. The labour standards scheme is like an invitation to a party where all the guests have to wear 1970s clothes — regardless of how they feel about it — simply because the host thinks they are groovy.

But it may be that the WTO does have a role to play in helping individual consumers to reward countries with better social records. It is currently impossible to make moral judgments on the high street, because T-shirts rarely come labelled "Made in a Sweatshop by Children in Appalling Conditions". The market in information lags decades behind that in goods.

The WTO could establish a national ranking, perhaps including social services and environmental standard as well as labour protection. Consumers would then be faced with the choice between a 10-scoring T-shirt from a Grade A country — Germany, say — and a three-point one from a Grade F nation, which means child labour, prison labour and heavy pollution.

There is some evidence that people are sensitive to this kind of signalling and may well buy more goods from countries with better records. Those countries would be rewarded without closing markets to the poorer ones. A better-informed market could be used to provide a carrot, rather than a stick.

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 1.8800	France 7.70	Italy 2.325	Singapore 2.15
Austria 16.07	Germany 2.2880	Malta 0.6465	South Africa 6.61
Belgium 46.90	Greece 354.50	Netherlands 2.9225	Spain 161.75
Canada 2.0590	Hong Kong 11.08	New Zealand 2.20	Sweden 10.09
Cyprus 0.7016	India 54.41	Norway 8.30	Switzerland 1.87
Denmark 8.54	Ireland 0.9436	Portugal 236.00	Turkey 120.898
Finland 7.10	Israel 4.84	Saudi Arabia 2.76	US 1.6100

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel as at close of business on Friday)

Indicators

TODAY — UK Purchasing Managers Index (June), UK M4 figures (June; provisional), US NAPP (June). TOMORROW — UK Official reserves (June), US FOMC Meeting, US Leading Indicators (May), US New Home Sales (May). WEDNESDAY — UK Chancellor/Governor monthly meeting, FR Bank de France Council Meeting, GERS Industrial Production (May), GERS Manufacturing Production (May), THURSDAY — US Market Holiday, Independence Day, FRIDAY — UK Housing starts and completions (May), US Non-Farm Payrolls (June), US Unemployment (June). Source: NatWest Securities.

Learn from noble Norway



Larry Elliott

ANYBODY who has experienced the agony of negative equity will know how the heavily indebted countries of the developing world feel. Keeping up with the interest payments is like running through treacle, a soul-destroying and seemingly endless process that redistributes money from the have-nots to the haves.

In truth, the situation of poor countries is even more acute than it is for homeowners, not least because there is a far greater chance of house prices floating individuals off the rocks of debt than commodity prices doing the same for nations dependent on exports of primary products.

The world's richer nations know this. They are well aware that the 20 or so poorest countries — mainly but not exclusively in sub-Saharan Africa — are caught in a debt trap from which there is no escape. They recognise also that sustainable development requires these nations to spend money on health, education and basic infrastructure — money that is at present being sliced down the debt drain.

Joseph which has laissez-faire as its foundation stone. The rich nations see globalisation — which has leached power from them — as inevitable and the best guarantor of rising prosperity and freedom.

But there is more. Debt relief on the scale required to make a real difference to developing countries would mean a phenomenal transfer of resources from North to South. It would be an egalitarian gesture on the part of countries which have made a virtue out of rising inequality in their own societies over the past 20 years.

either non-beneficial or actively prejudicial to its national interest on the basis that unspecified but enormous benefits will result at some point in the future.

key allies could regulate and oversee the development of western capitalism. If the West really is important, there is less justification for its stranglehold on the multilateral institutions.

been seen with the campaign to stop World Bank dams in Nepal and the growth of Local Exchange Trading Schemes (LETS) as a means of giving back to local communities some control over their lives.

or bid for a construction project. Douglas Hard was advocating this sort of bogus mercantilism only a fortnight ago, suggesting the "huge advantage" British business would reap from the decoupling of energy and air navigation; and the "heavily protected" French and German telephone systems practically justified membership of the Union all by itself.

terrorism and Kenneth Clarke's proposals for debt relief are all encouraging proof of the desire to reshape. The prerequisites for any reshaping is debt relief, and the G7 knows it. While there is an argument that writing off debts runs into the problem of moral hazard — that you are encouraging a spendthrift approach — this seems rather less relevant than the fact that between 1990 and 1993 Zambia spent 35 times as much on debt payments as it did on education.

Under the Naples terms of the G7, a debtor nation can have a write-off of up to 87 per cent on debts built up before it applied to the Paris club for rescheduling, but nothing on debts incurred afterwards. For a country like Uganda this is a serious problem, because the proceeds were going to debt-forgiveness. Aid agencies have calculated that the sale of 12 per cent of the IMF's \$40 billion gold reserves could wipe out the IMF debt of the world's 20 poorest countries.

make rotten negotiators? So what else is new? Well, what is new is that all this G7-type, battling-for-Britain, strategic-interests stuff is supposed to be history, courtesy of globalisation, free trade and the triumph of capitalism. In the new order, there is no such thing as a British company (remember BMW-Rover?) and, by extension, there can be no such thing as a British commercial interest.

cause only 20 per cent of its \$2.5 billion bilateral debt was assumed before it appealed to the Paris club.

Other, more radical options, have been touted for global redistribution, such as a carbon tax on the big polluters of the West, which could be used for environmental protection, or the Tobin tax on foreign exchange speculation to control global capital flows.

Either we believe our own free-trade propaganda or we don't. If we do, then our modest proposal for the whole economic-summit industry should be simple and direct. Between the eyes.

Bogus mercantilism reaches its apogee

Worm's eye Dan Atkinson

LEVEL-HEADED insurance men have long held to the golden rule that one should never underwrite one piece of business in the hope that it will lead to another. Each deal should stand or fall alone.

International economic relations, as typified by last week's G7 junket in Lyon, appear to be conducted on the reverse principle. Britain (or France, or the US) signs a series of deals

For example, should London Globo Mining be bidding for a Zambian copper concession, that ought, in the brave new world, to be a matter entirely for London Globo Mining. As a

British-registered firm, it clearly has an interest, but the Crown, representing the generality of the British people, has no interest at all. Britain may need copper, but this can be bought on the open market.

We are not living in Tudor times — even were success for London Globo to create British jobs, inward investors can generate just as many employment opportunities.

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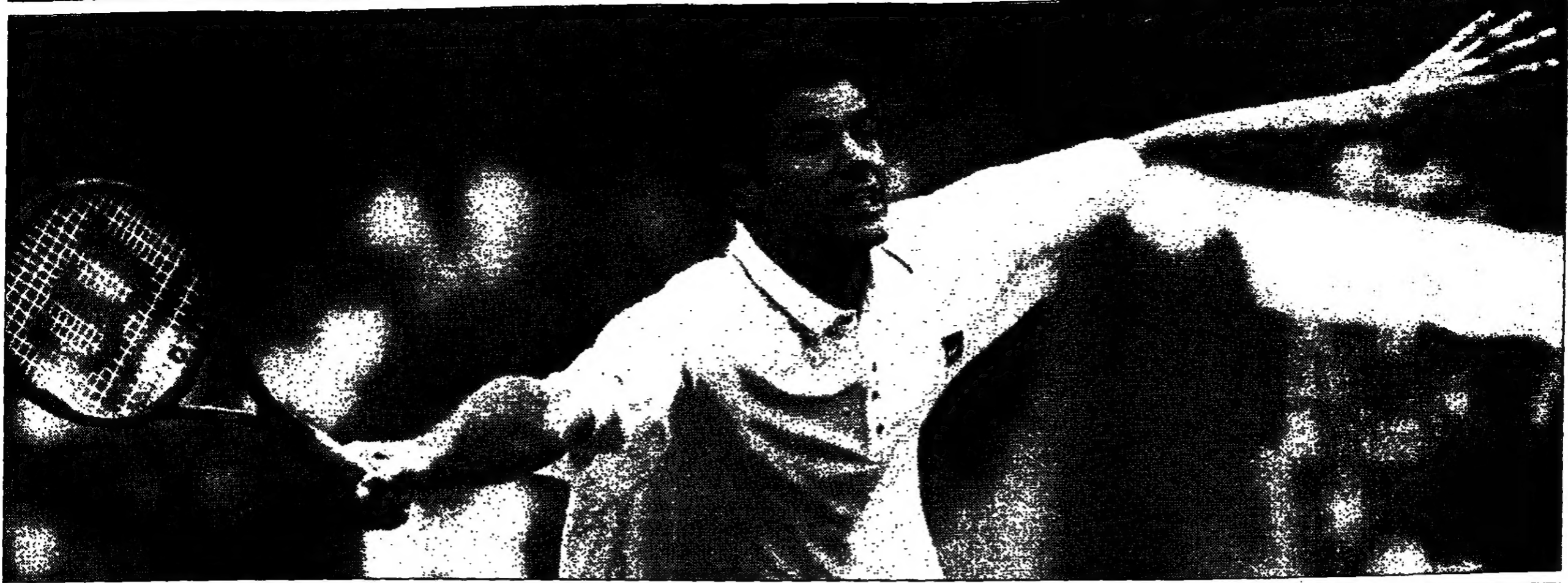
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Energised... Pete Sampras, going for his fourth successive title, has avoided the five-setters which sapped his strength at the French Open. He should have the firepower to dispose of Cedric Pioline today. PHOTOGRAPHS: DAN SMITH

Martin takes growing interest in scattering of seeds

Little known men eye a path to the final, says Stephen Bierley

WHEN Todd Martin, one of the most pugnacious players on the men's circuit, describes something as "interesting", one can be pretty sure that all hell has broken loose.

Martin, the last surviving seed in the bottom half of the men's draw, eased his fit 6ft 6in frame into an uncomfortable looking chair on Saturday and surprised it had indeed been "an interesting week" and that it was "nice to see a few new names".

Nobody disputed Martin's accuracy. Of the 16 original men's seeds only five will enter the All England Club's gates this morning. The modern era has never known such carnage.

The seeding committee reserve the right to juggle with world rankings. In Melbourne, Paris and New York the computer rules; Wimbledon adds the human touch.

Understandably the loss of Andre Agassi, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Michael Chang, Jim Courier et al has led to criticism. Germany's Michael Stich, never short of an opinion, led the attack.

Graf prepares for a bumpy ride as the air clears for Sanchez Vicario

THERE is a new automatic highway system in the United States, writes Stephen Bierley, where cars will eventually drive themselves, their positions on the road controlled by sophisticated electronic devices. Some say the idea came from women's tennis.

The computer that adjusts women's rankings on tournament results rarely overheats. Katarina Stankovic's second-round victory over Monica Seles provided the biggest glitch of the first week. The 23-year-old Slovak won 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 but a fit and match-honed Seles would have galloped through this match.

Then came her 19th Grand Slam victory in the French Open and predictions of her imminent decline looked foolish.

Graf has no intention of becoming history yet and her first three matches here have done nothing to diminish the impression that a seventh Wimbledon title is well within her grasp.

Stich's complaint is that too many of the heavy servers have ended up in the top half of the draw. True, it may be regarded as unfortunate that only one from Pete Sampras, Goran Ivanisevic and Stich himself can make the final but the seeding committee can hardly be blamed for the loss of Becker or the vagaries of the draw.

Fit and ready... but Graf has a tricky route henceforth

Martina Hingis, emphasised that today's fourth-round match against Hingis, the 16th seed, will be viewed with great interest. In Rome Graf could barely put a ball in play and Hingis took full advantage. Quickly sensing that the world No. 1 was playing some several levels below her best, the 15-year-old Swiss waited patiently for errors.

Hingis rarely had to go for outright winners, although even at this early stage of her senior career she possesses an impressive maturity of shot and thought. Her serve has improved considerably during the last year but she still does not have the all-round power to make her a consistent threat to the top few players — although they know those days are surely numbered.

"Martina plays the big points wonderfully well for somebody so young," said Graf. "Even now she comes up with points that her seniors would never think of or be able to execute."

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Gustafsson hopes Henman's future will not start today

DON'T put too much pressure on his shoulders because otherwise he's not going to be able to deal with it. He's still very young and still very inexperienced.

Thus said Michael Stich — who for much of his career has lived in the shadow of his fellow German Boris Becker and knows a great deal about media pressure — expressing his concern over the projection of Britain's Tim Henman into a tennis "superstar" on the back of one excellent victory over Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the French Open champion, and two wins over modest home-grown opponents.

"Everybody is talking now, with so many seeds out of the final but there are other good guys still in." The first is Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson, whom Henman plays on Centre Court today for a quarter-final berth.

It is impossible to know: Gustafsson himself has tremendous determination and an all-court game that will test Henman. He, like everybody else in the bottom half of the draw, knows he has probably his best chance ever of reaching the final.

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No quarter asked... Henman, left, faces Gustafsson today

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Athletics

Backley makes his point to Olympic selectors

British team being finalised at midnight tonight. Backley — who had not thrown since last summer — had only this chance to impress.

So it was with some relief that he saw his first throw hit 81.66 metres. Backley did not hide his feelings. "I'm a happy man," he said. "It's all systems go now."

Backley, the bronze medalist in the 1992 Games, had his operation only nine weeks ago and was still on crutches less than a month ago. "I didn't know what my fitness was like but I found out today it was quite good." The American Tom Pukstys won with 84.01m, with Backley second.

The Briton now has five weeks to close the gap between himself and Jim Zalesky, who threw a world record of 98.48m in May — albeit unratified. "I threw my crutch 99 metres after I heard that," Backley said. "Zalesky's throw was massive, but he is only human and we've seen how he can crumble under pressure."

Whether Backley will be joined by Linford Christie remained a point of speculation. Perhaps the organisers were trying to influence the decision he will announce in London today but they played simply the Best after he won the 100 metres.

Christie will have learnt little from this routine outing to affect his Atlanta decision. He looked as majestic as ever as he got his best start of the season to win in 10.16sec, 0.06sec ahead of the rising youngster Ian Mackie. He will have to be quick of his blocks even quicker this morning for his press conference. "Ton o'clock. That's too early for me," he declared.

Sally Gunnell, Britain's other defending Olympic champion, had the ideal warm-up for her 400m hurdles clash against Kim Baiten in Letzsumme on Wednesday. It will be the first time the two have met since the American took away Gunnell's world title and world record in Gothenburg last year. Gunnell was satisfied at finishing second in the flat 400m in 51.45sec. The Australian Cathy Freeman won in 48.96, the outstanding performance of the meeting.

Jonathan Edwards, jumping before his home crowd, extended his unbeaten streak in the triple jump to 19 com-

Good-bye battery



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Exp 11/15/96

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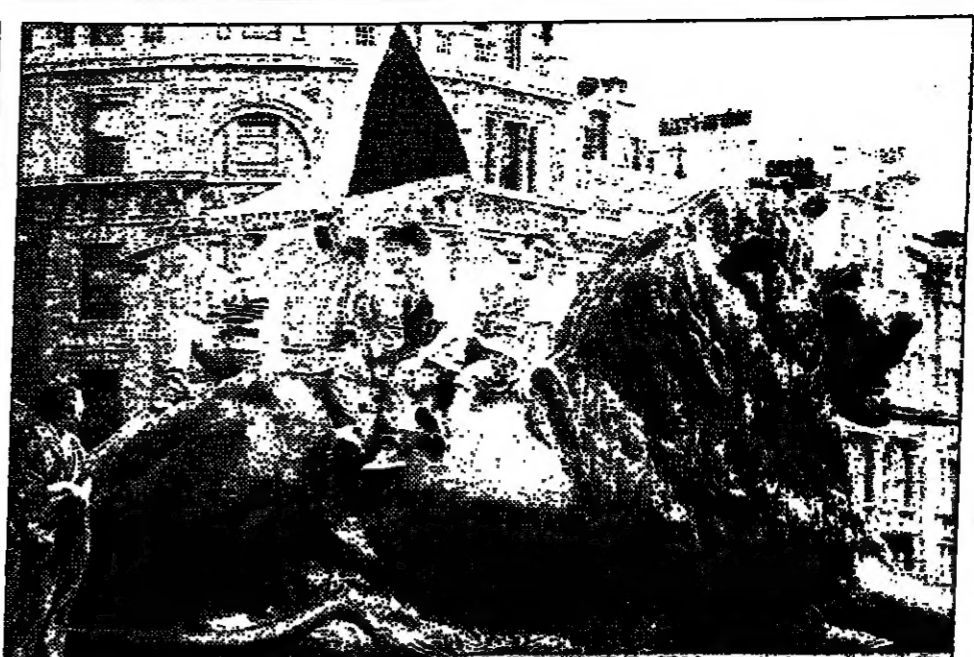
The Guardian Sport



EURO IMAGES ... a terrible new departure for Maldini



... and likewise an early exit, with foot in mouth, for the flying Dutchman Davids



... while others stayed longer than expected, like yesterday's gleeful Czechs

Champions toast a double Bierhoff

David Lacey at Wembley

LONG-AWAITED touch of alchemy won the European Championship for Germany at Wembley last night when a goal from Oliver Bierhoff in sudden-death overtime ended a brave attempt by the Czech Republic to pull off one of the bigger upsets.

Once more a German substitution did the trick after Patrik Berger had given the Czechs the lead with a controversial penalty on the hour. Bierhoff came off the German bench in the 86th minute and brought the scores level five minutes later.

Then, after less than five minutes of extra-time, Bierhoff turned on a ball from Klinsmann and saw Kouba only half-stop his shot, which had enough momentum to carry it into the net.

So the Germans have won the European title for the first time since 1980. It is their first triumph since reunification and Bert Vogts's first success as Germany's coach.

Among neutrals the Germans were not popular; successful football teams seldom are. But they had not helped their cause by consistently griping about the tournament rules, and Uefa's decision to allow Vogts to reinforce his depleted squad had stuck in many a craw.

Ironically Todt, the defensive midfielder called up by the Germans, did not even make the bench last night. With Klinsmann and Helmer on the field at the start, Vogts

clearly did not want to appear to be having his *strut* and eating it.

In fact, with Hassler filling the suspended Moller's role on the left of midfield and Strunz on the right of the defence replacing Reuter, the other player to receive a second yellow card in the match with England, Germany were much their usual selves. And a series of early corners reminded the Czech Republic of what they were up against.

In spite of being forced back in defence almost immediately, however, the Czechs created the two clearest early openings. After two minutes a slick piece of passing ended with Nemeec finding Berger through a gap in the German defence, only for the latter's touch to let him down.

After 13 minutes Kuka dragged the ball inside Babel on the left wing before finding Poborsky unmarked with a prodigious centre to the far post. Poborsky usually scores from this sort of opportunity but now he volleyed over.

Misses like this can be costly. The Czechs were worrying the German midfield with the neatness and imagination of their passing but Babel's forward run to link up with Ziege offered a reminder of how effective Germany could be when their defenders came out.

Paradoxically Sammer's first serious advance led to a misunderstanding with Hassler which prompted a Czech counter-attack and an exchange of passes between Nedved and Kuka that looked promising until Elits brought

the latter down. Then 11 minutes before half-time the Germans briefly found themselves facing a gaping net without taking the lead. A shot from Sammer flew off off Klinsmann and dropped to Kuntz, whose volley beat Kouba and looked certain to bring a goal until Rada flung himself back to hook the ball clear.

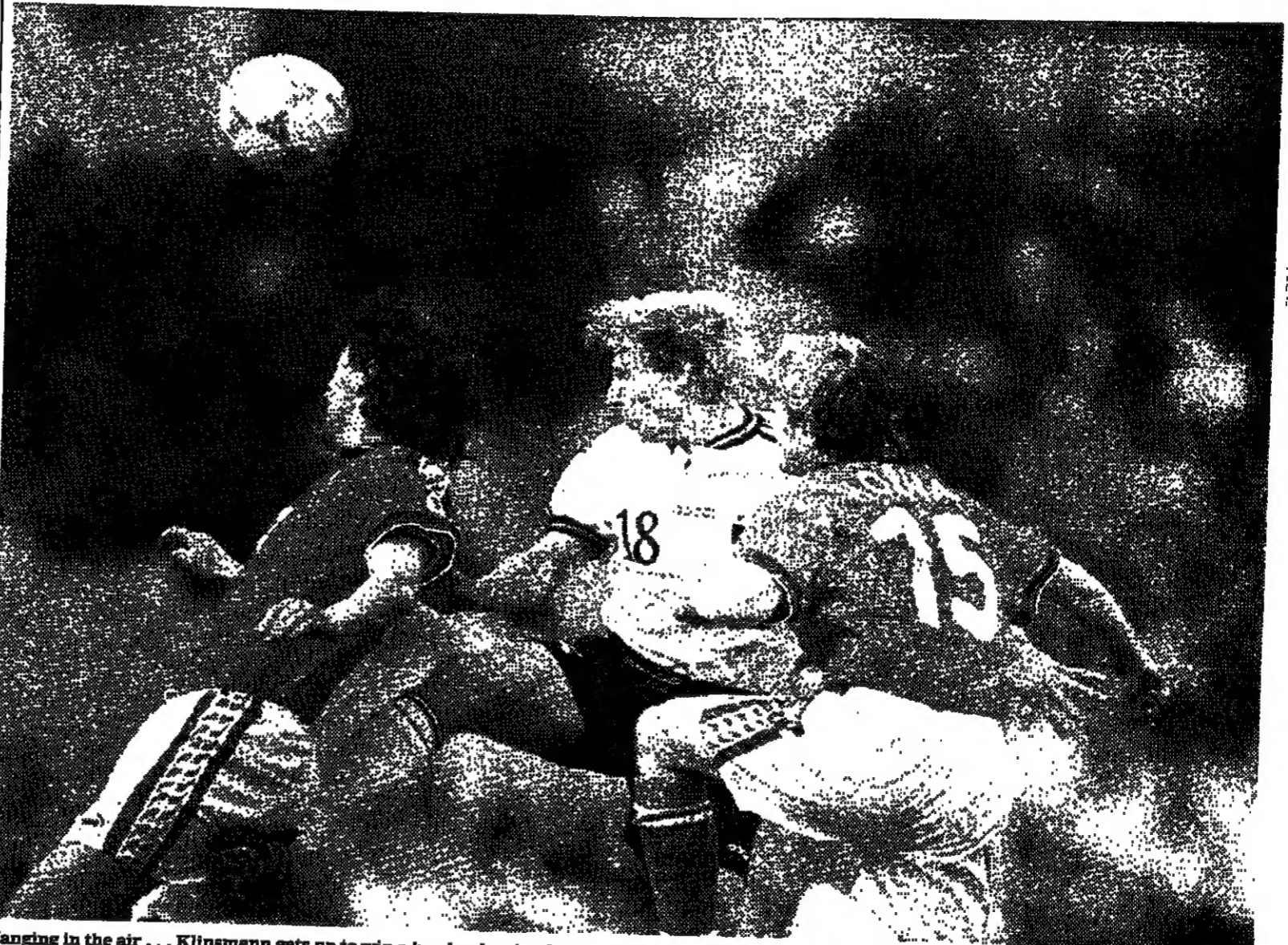
Both goalkeepers took credit for keeping the first half scoreless. In the 41st minute Kuntz, clear but outside as he ran on to Ziege's through-pass, had only Kouba to beat but the Czech bravely blocked his shot. A minute later Kuka dispossessed Elits on the left to set himself up with a similar chance but now Kopke repeated Kouba's save.

Elits's final had another two minutes to run. On the stroke of half-time he missed a tackle on Nemeec, fell awkwardly and was carried off, not to return. Bode replaced him for the second half.

Chance for chance the Czechs were still Germany's equals. Nine minutes into the second half clever play by Hornak on the right instigated a cross-field passing movement with Nedved and Kuka which found Berger coming through on the left for a shot that took a deflection but was still saved by Kopke.

Another four minutes and the Czechs were ahead. Kuka won an important header and was laid out as he did so.

GERMANY: Kopke; Sammer; Strunz; Helmer; Babel; Ziege; Elits; Scholl; Hassler; Klinsmann; Kuntz. CZECH REPUBLIC: Rada; Kouba; Kadlec; Hornak; Bode; Nedved; Berger; Nemeec; Poborsky; Kuka. Referee: P. Paresito (Italy).



Hanging in the air ... Klinsmann gets up to win a header despite the attentions of Nemeec, left, and Hornak

PHOTOGRAPH: REINHOLD ECKERT

The moment Klinsmann needed a Kleenex

Martin Thorpe pays tribute to the player who inspired Germany

AS Jürgen Klinsmann limped off early in last Sunday's quarter-final against Croatia he was close to tears. Last night, as the final whistle went to proclaim Germany as European champions, he allowed those tears to flow. Move over Paul Gascoigne.

After he went off against Croatia with a torn calf muscle the former Tottenham player's sadness came as much from the fact that he would be missing a semi-final against England at Wembley as anything else. He was told such an injury would take 10 days at least to put right. It was also a devastating blow to Bert Vogts, who had not only

lost his only world-class striker but a leader on and off the field, a cajoler, the font of much of the team's spirit.

England thought their luck really was in from that moment. Vogts tried to play the propaganda game, teasing out the possibility that Klinsmann could be back in time for a meeting with the hosts, but the man himself was not playing.

"If you want to clutch at straws," said Klinsmann, "there is a small chance I might make the final." He was right.

This was not a vintage Klinsmann performance, not surprising given that he had not undertaken so much as a run until a brief work-out at Wembley on Saturday. But the captain's return was a symbolic necessity for a Ger-

man side racked by injuries and controversy.

Given his reputation for acting when he is tackled, it was fitting that for much of the game he was marked by a defender called Rada.

But from the first minute he was applauding his teammates' moves, pointing, shouting, just being the intelligent and inspirational footballer he is.

There was also his own skill for others to marvel at. The most memorable moment came on 51 minutes when he received a ball down the right and after magnetic interplay between his right and left feet, followed by a sudden turn, he fed Scholl perfectly down the line.

It is hard to remember him having a shot on goal. He saw more of Rada and his man-

marking understudy Suchoparek than the Czech goal. But that did not matter in the end.

He has played at Wembley before, as a substitute against England in 1991. Last night, though, was the Wembley final victory that he had missed out on in his brief stay at White Hart Lane. Despite what Alan Sugar might say, this triumph belonged to a polite, friendly, intelligent man. And he can play a bit, too.

Germany's victory netted the punter who placed a £122 accumulator bet on nine sporting events £201,069. He had already successfully picked the winners of the Premiership, the three other English divisions, the Scottish title, the rugby league Challenge Cup and the 1,000 and 3,000 Guineas.

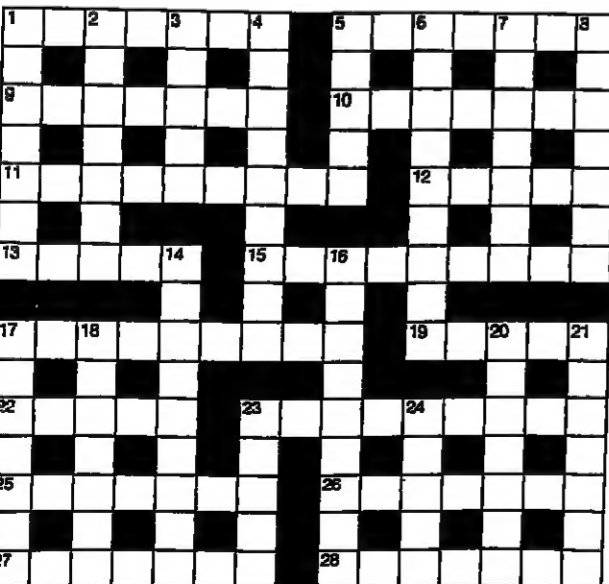
Keetch, an uncompromising defender born in London's East End, epitomised the changing status of the footballer after the abolition of the maximum wage.

He caught the mood of the Swinging Sixties in London.

Obituary, page 10

Guardian Crossword No 20,693

Set by Crispa



WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 20,693 This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are J. Clarke of Howards Heath, W Sussex; S. J. Scott of Ealing, London; M. C. Lamb of Solihull, W Midlands; D. Walsh of Wiltshire, Wiltshire; J. Tinker of Ainsdale, Southport.

- 14 Secluded homes for women, always in order (9)
15 Stopped on — could be put off (6)
17 Many a politician is hard but rather wet (7)
18 The manual worker showing little heart is anxious (7)
20 Wine or tea bringing endless happiness (7)
21 Men dare to change for a reformer (7)
22 Beasts bawling up young beginner? It sounds a bit thin! (5)
24 Fatty given an order — directions (5)

Across

- 1 Drink with a man on the board (7)
5 Forever at the throat of a fellow in office (7)
9 Flap when grabbed by a foreigner such as 1 ac (7)
10 An acquaintance to hoodwink with some finesse (7)
11 Points put to learned characters in the Lake District (8)
12 Sound fish to rear (5)
13 Wins a new admirer (5)
15 The broadcasting of news must be bang on time (9)
17 Patiently awaited conclusion (9)
19 Article about car-manufacture in Ghana (5)
22 A measure that's satisfied army men (5)
23 He's regarded as a villain for cutting the discount (9)

Down

- 1 Discourage the production of French publications (7)
2 A girl about ten, one feels (7)
3 Person scoffing large turn-over with little hesitation (5)
4 Consultation could lead to an exchange of words (9)
5 Hospital in pleasant, suitable situation (5)
6 A large number in time look to raise such a plant (9)
7 18 upset the old queen (7)
8 Downright irrational (7)

Uefa plans use of two referees

AS IF a football pitch did not seem a congested enough place already, Uefa is considering a plan to introduce a second referee.

Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, admitted at the weekend that match officials had made errors at Euro 96, most notably Romania's goal-that-never-was against Bulgaria.

He said: "The idea of having two referees for every match may be looked at again. It would be good if experiments could be made in competitions in major countries."

However, Johansson, who advocated the introduction of professional referees, defended the officials at Euro 96 over their use of yellow cards following criticism that too many were for trivial offences.

"Ninety per cent of yellow cards were for brutal attacks from behind," he said, although under Fifa's rules red cards should be issued for such offences as violent tackles from behind.

Liverpool have expressed surprise at reports that Karel Poborsky, whose energetic midfield performances illuminated the Czech Republic's European Championship campaign, could be on his way to Anfield in a £3 million deal. "We did make an inquiry about the player but it is totally wrong to suggest we have made any sort of firm offer," said Liverpool's chief executive Peter Robinson.

Frantisek Cipro, the coach of Poborsky's club side Slavia Prague, is reported as saying that the Anfield club have made an offer for the 24-year-old nicknamed the "Express Train".

"We have had interest from several clubs in Italy and England but Liverpool are the only ones to make a firm bid," said Cipro.

Bobby Keetch a trendsetter in the sixties

TERRY VENABLES was yesterday mourning Bobby Keetch, the 54-year-old former Fulham and QPR defender, who died on Saturday night after suffering a stroke.

"It's like being hit by a sledgehammer, I can't take it in," said the outgoing England coach. "He was the greatest friend a man could have. Through all the bad times I've had he would ring me every day."

Nanny d...
Inside

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